

HISTORY OF DEPUE

DE PUE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

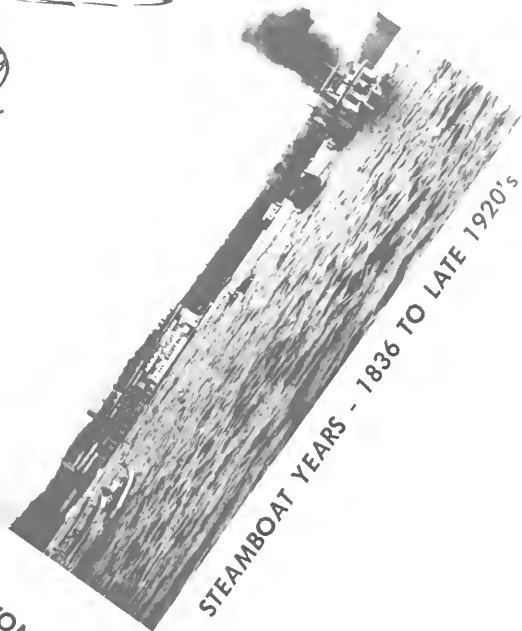
SEPTEMBER 13 - 18, 1961

LAKE

DE PUE



FIRST SETTLERS - 1830's



STEAMBOAT YEARS - 1836 TO LATE 1920's



1961 A.P.B.A. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTA



1673 - FATHER MARQUETTE DISCOVERED THE LAKE

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DePue Centennial Officers



DePue Centennial committee officers admire Hydroplane, owned by Joe Michelini of Chicago, which will run in the A.P.B.A. National "Alky" Championships on Lake DePue. Standing, left to right, are: Homer Graham, Centennial Secretary; Robert Seeger of Chicago, Race General Chairman; Gerald Toovey, Centennial General Chairman; Donald Bosnick, Centennial Director; Harold Banick, Centennial Director; and Edward Peterson, Centennial Director. Absent when picture was taken was Meyer Serkes, Centennial Treasurer. — Photographer Robert Kruchinski

The Centennial Planning Committee

On September 18, 1960, the first meeting of the Centennial Planning Committee was called to order by Mayor Matt Fassino in the Council Chambers.

Fassino stated that the village board was not the sponsor of the celebration, but a start had to be made, and with the approval of the board, he had previously appointed Gerald Toovey temporary chairman.

Toovey, a third generation native, the son of Mrs. Marguerite Rauh Toovey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rauh Sr., was duly elected permanent centennial chairman and took the office that afternoon.

Homer Graham was elected secretary; Meyer Serkes, treasurer; Donald Bosnick, Harold Banick, and Edward Peterson, directors. Many representatives of various organizations were present and the groundwork was laid for the 1961 centennial celebration.

Several objectives were discussed and plans set in motion to carry them through, namely, to have

every organization in DePue participate in the centennial; to have the 1961 A.P.B.A., National Championship Outboard Regatta on Lake DePue, and to arrange a variety of entertainment to please everyone with special activities planned for the children plus a Queen Contest.

Various means of financing the celebration were discussed, including the races, contests, souvenirs, car raffle, and others.

To successfully accomplish these objectives and meet many unexpected problems in planning such a gigantic event, Toovey called for expressions of pride and goodwill and the cooperation of every citizen.

He expressed the committee's gratitude for all contributions of time, efforts, and funds. The profits will be donated to the village for improvements. A non-profit organization charter was granted the committee in March, 1961 by the Secretary of State.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Seeger, Chicago, have extended much valuable assistance and publicity re-

garding the Regatta. Mr. Seeger is racing commissioner of the American Power Boat Association.

The following organizations have been represented at the monthly planning sessions: DePue Boat Club, DePue Booster Club, DePue Business Men, DePue Fire Department, American Legion Post 327, and Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4602 and Auxiliary, Slovenian Lodge S. N. P. J.,

59, American Fraternal Union 130, New Jersey Zinc Company, U.S. Steel Workers of America Local 5212, Men's Fellowship and Ladies Guild of DePue Congregational Church, St. Anne's, Our Lady, and Altar Sodality, and Holy Name Society of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts.

In The Beginning

Almost one hundred and thirty years ago, pioneer families leaving their homes in the east, began to arrive, some in covered wagons, some by boat, and some on foot, and settled in what was then a wilderness.

They set the stage for the opening performance of a "show" that was destined to have a continuous run. Their theater was the beginning of DePue. It was, according to all historical reviews, an imposing drama of sadness and joy, war and peace, gains and losses, life and death. This courageous "first act" was superb.

The actors, our stalwart ancestors, were determined that no reverses, great or small, would bring down the curtain on their show! They all played major roles — there was no memorizing lines for theirs was a human drama, lived from day to day.

In the vernacular of today's theatrical world, the pioneers' first act would be called a "wild western."

The curtain has gone down for all of those early actors, but not before a new generation of actors had taken over. Some of these people are still here and are watching the show go on.

If the original few in the very first act, over one hundred and thirty years ago, could have front row seats today, would they recognize it to be a continuation of what they instituted?

Certainly they would see that much progress has been made; their efforts had been productive; their prayers had been answered. They would be as proud of the new actors as we are of them.

Certainly they would be bewildered, but would marvel at the splendor of the brightly-colored neon-lighted show of today — for their "footlights" were dishes of grease with rag wicks, resinous pine knots, and later candles and crude oil lamps.

They would see that the stage settings, scenery, costumes and properties had progressed. They would not comprehend nuclear power, jet planes, space ships, satellites, rockets and such — for they knew only oxen, horses, mules and water power.

The show in the years 1861 to 1961 are in review — they are history. A new act is taking form, but still a continuation. It is no longer a real western show but an atomic spectacular.

Who is to say, if we could have front row seats one hundred years from now, that we would recognize the show? We, too, will progress as will our descendants, for the show must go on.

In planning and celebrating DePue's centennial, we pay special tribute to those brave, devout pioneers and their descendants. We honor their courage and revere their determination and aggressiveness. We will always reserve front row seats for them in the historical reviews of time.

— Mrs. Alice Glover Deal

The Early Years

In 1914, Mrs. Albert Frey, a former teacher in the DePue School compiled a short history of the village, to be given at a club meeting. But for the fact that she interviewed, at that time, the three remaining early settlers of the village, no authentic records would have been made of the beginning of the territory now known as DePue.

From Charles L. Savage, Doras (Mrs. Edward) Tinley, 83 years old at that time, and Mrs. Henrietta Savage, Mrs. Frey was able to obtain an early record of the pioneers, the development of the village, the start of schools and churches. It is from some of her story that we relate much of this chapter.

Charles Savage first settled with his parents

in Hennepin in 1831 and came to this area in 1836. It is through his knowledge of pioneer days that we know Shabbona, the friendly Indian Chief and other Indians often visited in the pioneer homes.

The old settlers recalled being able to shoot wild turkey or deer at any time. This vast wilderness abounded in many wild beasts and game of all kind. Wild hogs were plentiful along the river bottoms. Passenger pigeons, now almost extinct were so numerous that they broke down trees with their weight. The lake and streams abounded with fish; a single draw of the nets would yield tons of fish at a time.

Savage was a farmer, land owner and auc-

ioneer. He bought land before the Civil War. He later sold 200 acres to the Mineral Point Zinc Company.

The three old settlers told of the great productivity of the land in this area, but also spoke of low prices. Corn sold for 6 cents a bushel and wheat at 12½ cents a bushel. Dressed pork was 75 cents a hundred. They told of hauling grain to Chicago by oxen, the trip required a month.

There was a great deal of malaria in the early years and though the settlers were surrounded with abundance, they often did not have the health to partake of it. Other bits of the early history told by these old timers will be included in other parts of the story of DePue.

The village was first called Newport Steamboat Landing, second Trenton, then Sherman, and finally DePue. In many old records and on the village seal the name was spelled Dupue. While known as Trenton, the post office was then Selby (Shelby) it was discovered that another town of Trenton existed on the Mississippi River and to avoid delay in mail delivery, the name was changed to Sherman.

In 1835, John Hall built a large warehouse. Steamboats began to come to his landing and load with produce for delivery to towns along the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers.

In 1836, a company was formed and land purchased from John Clark. They built two large warehouses and the village became the great shipping point for all of the country west of the Illinois River. A brisk trade was carried on for many years in grain and livestock by farmers and business men.

In 1853, Benjamin Newell, a pioneer business man, laid out the town and called it Trenton. The site was platted by Justin Olds, surveyor. Newell was recorded as the town proprietor. At one time he owned almost 1200 acres of land and most of the lake.

In 1842, Newell purchased two warehouses and a pork house. He packed and shipped pork to St. Louis by boat. He built a grist mill and ground wheat into flour. He also built a cooper shop and made the barrels for the flour. Steamboats came once a week for cargoes of flour, potatoes and grain.

Newell built a saw mill and employed 100 woodchoppers to clear the land. The saw mill stood near the lake at the corner of what is now Union and Second streets. The saw mill's capacity was 115 railroad ties per day, for shipment. In 1850, grading was begun in this area for the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad. Ties were laid in 1851-52.

The first trains were run as far as Rock Island in 1854. A single track was laid. Wood used as fuel for the engines was sawed into logs and piled along the tracks from the East Crossing to the west edge of the village for DePue was a fueling station.

In 1856, besides the cooper shop, warehouses, grist and saw mills there was one store, one blacksmith shop, one saloon and one hotel.

These early pioneers were law-makers too. The Village of Sherman was incorporated under the common law in 1861. The charter was obtained through the efforts of Mr. Stacy, representative, for \$5.00. The village council met once a month, and were paid 50 cents. Liquor license was \$50.00 per year.

From an early record called Sherman Journal 1866 (early pages were missing) we learned that they had a lengthy ordinance (6 sections) regulating the sale of liquor; an ordinance relating to collection of fines, forfeitures, penalties and costs; an ordinance concerning nuisances and the health of the village; an ordinance to prevent gambling and other disorderly conducts in the village; an ordinance fixing the boundaries of the village, and an ordinance regulating the speed of trains through the village. It was set at six miles per hour.

The village board was G. Kelums, president, G. Ireland, C. Savage, N. Lushinger and David Meyers. H. C. Hill was clerk. These ordinances were approved and adopted June 30, 1866, drawn up by Ide and Kendall, attorneys, at a cost of \$17.00.

On February 18, 1867, the same village board adopted the following resolution to-wit: "That we, the village board, adopt the act entitled, "An act to change the name of the town of Sherman to that of Dupue, and to extend the corporate powers thereof."

In June, 1869, with Edward Tinley president, the board ordained that the boundaries of said town shall include within its limits, all of section thirty-five (35) in township sixteen (16) north, range ten (10) east of the fourth (4th) principal meridian. It wasn't until Dec. 15, 1908 with George M. Bryant, president, that the seal was changed and embossed with the name of the village spelled "DePue".

In 1888, a special election was held to determine if DePue would become organized as a village under the act of the general assembly of the State of Illinois. Thirty-eight votes were cast for village organization under the general law. Charles Savage was the president, trustees were Charles and Martin Banschbach, Thomas Shaw, Barney Yocks, with Frank Pope, clerk. In 1901, the charter was granted by James A. Rose, Secretary of State.

The German Settlers

Mrs. Anna Yocks Lawless, 81 years old, who came to America with her parents, the Bernard Yocks, when she was a baby, has lived in DePue most of her life. She was one of the class of seven to graduate in 1896 from DePue's two-year high school. With her keen memory of early DePue she has given us this "first hand" information regarding the early German settlement in the Village.

"There are a good many names of German origin in the early records of the village, among them are the following: Achinger, Bernhardt, Beyer, Banschbach, Croisant, Dunterman, Feltes, Goering, Gieler, Gusman, Hahn, Hartman, Hassler, Heitz, Herzog, Hoppler, Huber, Krieg, Krueger, Link, Luchsinger, Maikels, Meyer, Schmidt, Seeburger, Stedman, Stoffel, Werner, Wuban, Wolters, and Zimmerman.

The last sizable emigration from Germany was in the late 1870's and early 1880's. Some of those families were: Herman Baumer, August Bansch, Ernest Guenther, Henry Hulsen, Fred Krueger, George Lemmler, Jacob Mueller, Stefan Nawa, Albert Stieffel, Jacob Stuecken, Julius Thron, Bernhardt Yocks, John Schwartz, Albert Eiselman, Reinhardt Barthel and Martin Hedke.

Germany had had compulsory education laws for years, so when the principal of the school proposed holding night classes to teach English, most of these men were eager to attend, as well as the three Baumer sons, Fritz, Herman and Gustave; and Clement and William Wolff, nephews of the Yocks and Nawas (The wives, presumably, were supposed to learn English from the men!) But the incentive for them to learn it immediately was lacking, since German was spoken by the two merchants in town — Frey and Bernhardt, and Goering in the meat market.

Peru, only ten miles away, with two department stores was able to offer more merchandise and the clerks spoke German, too.

In those early years, wherever groups of Germans gathered, there was singing. Here, too, they were not long in organizing a "sang verein" — or choral society. There were good voices, led by Steve Nawa, conductor, giving them the pitch on a violin. They sang all the old and new German lieder. There was much sociability among the families in connection with this. It undoubtedly helped much to allay any homesickness for the fatherland."

— Mrs. Anna Yocks Lawless

Village Administration 1869 - 1900

The early settlers' problems in a village just beginning to grow were different and difficult at times. Lengthy ordinances were drawn up by the village lawmakers on issues of liquor, gambling, taxes, pounds, fines and penalties, peddlers, shows, health, elections, poll tax, salaries, misdemeanors, public safety, peace and quiet, police and the town seal. From time to time these ordinances were amended and enlarged. Enforcing them was a different problem.

The health of the people posed a constant problem. Contagious diseases, especially small pox, spread quickly. Strict quarantine and fumigation laws were enforced with special police to guard the stricken premises; a pest house was in operation.

There were health problems through contamination in wells, "rain barrels" and out houses. Decaying remains of animals and fish were more unhealthy problems to be met. Rabies was feared because all animals, horses, cows, swine, goats and such ran at large in the settlement.

All of that led to the building of a village pound in 1870. It was 8 x 14 x 7; constructed of wire. Pound masters were appointed at annual elections. Animals were impounded, fed and confined for a period of time and if not claimed they were sold at auction. George Hoppler, Sr., built the first pound for \$7.00.

E. Tinley, president, H. C. Hill, George Hosier, Sam Heitz and D. McCarthy were some of the lawmakers in this period. They instituted the poll tax,

of 2 days labor on the streets or \$2.00 cash. They levied a tax of 15 cents on \$100.00 valuation of real and personal properties for road and bridge purposes. They set the liquor license at \$40.00 per year but in 1875 raised it to \$100.00.

Building roads and bridges and keeping them in repair were early problems. The creek that crosses the "Cornfield" division of the village would flood during heavy storms and wash out roads and bridges. It still causes some damage at times. Laborers were paid \$1.00 per day and the road commissioner was paid \$1.75 per day.

A treasurer's report at the end of the fiscal year of 1877 showed receipts \$389.26, disbursements \$400.35 — in debt \$11.09. Population of the village then was nearly 300 people. The board members were J. Hassler, B. Litchfield, C. Savage, Jacob Lusinger, A. Dunterman. Justus Pope, clerk.

As the years passed, wooden sidewalks were built when the village finances permitted. Labor was donated by the citizens being so benefitted. Heretofore the streets were cinder and gravel paths.

In 1878 George Hoppler built the first calaboose for the village. It was 12 x 20 x 9 — at a cost of \$245.00. Violators could now be lodged in it instead of in the Princeton jail.

In 1881 a larger pound was built, liquor licenses were raised to \$140.00, pack peddlers paid \$1.00 a day license.

In 1885 the liquor license was increased to \$500.00 a year, the poll tax was dropped, new



Charles Savage, Board Member

board members were C. Banchbach, J. McKinstry and T. Shaw. George Beyer was village marshal, at a salary of \$25.00 per month.

In 1889 fifteen keorsene lights were erected. Lamplighters were appointed each year. Some of the early ones were B. Yocks, G. Beyer and B. Litchfield.

In 1891 the ordinance regulating the speed of trains in the village was changed to read — "from 6 miles to 10 miles per hour." Louis Monnett was a new board member. W. Giesey was clerk. Wells were being dug in the village for fire fighting and village use.

In 1892 George Beyer was appointed captain to organize a fire company. A fire engine costing \$775 was purchased from the Howe Pump and Engine Co., of Indianapolis. Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 was organized with Beyer, chief, W. Sweeley, assistant chief and Simon Huber, second assistant. The board empowered the chief to enforce the labor of any citizen at the fire engine during a fire. The pump on the fire engine was a "teeter-totter" principal and men worked the pumps.

A lengthy fire ordinance was drawn up. It was agreed that the first man arriving at the fire house with a team to haul the engine would be

paid \$3.00. Jacob Lusinger was engineer. They had 50 pails, 4 ladders and 4 grappling hooks as extra equipment. The church bell sounded the fire alarm.

In the years 1892-1895 new lawmakers included F. Baumer, R. Paden, W. Sullivan, J. Croisant, J. Feltes, C. Stedman with Albert Frey as clerk at a salary of \$50.00 per year. More street lights were erected. In 1896 F. Powers was mayor. Roads were built and more sidewalks constructed.

In 1898 telephone companies were bidding for the right to enter the village and the council granted such to the Central Union Telephone Co., to place and maintain poles and necessary equipment for supplying public communication by telephone.

In 1898 the council accepted the J. White and Company plan for a village water works system. They issued village warrants of the amount of \$3,000.00 for 6 years at 6 percent for payment of the system.

In 1899 the first payment of \$500.00 was made on the water works. So started the village water system. Dr. Rummell vaccinated the children of the village at a cost of \$39.00.

The treasurer's report at the end of that period showed a balance on hand of \$757.29.

The Years 1900 - 1930

These were the years of expansion. Members of the second generation were beginning to take over the village administration. Telephone and electric light companies were given permission to enter the village and "set-up." There were many lengthy ordinances drawn to cover and regulate all new progresses. There were constant amendments of past ordinances made to meet the needs of improvements.

The big, big boom commenced in 1904, when the Mineral Point Zinc Co. purchased land and began to build their plant. The population was about 500, and during the period 1900 to 1930, the population reached 2,300.

Naturally many homes had to be constructed, new streets had to be opened and graveled. The Plant built "company houses" in the Park Addition, White City and Smoky Hollow. There were annexations of many subdivisions owned by Keims, Smiths, Banschbachs, Freys, Padens, Sorchychs and Baumers.

In 1905, George Beyer asked for and was given a franchise to operate an electric light system in the village. Kerosene lights were in use, but many business houses and "well-to-do" homes had gas lights. Individual carbide tanks were used with the same principal as coal miners' pit lamps.

"The DePue Journal" newspaper, published by Ralph Hunt, was the official newspaper.

In 1906, the Illinois Valley Railway (Interurban) was granted permission to lay down a railway through the Village. The town board organized a Board of Local Improvements and named Simon Huber and George Glover to serve on it. Many concrete sidewalks were constructed. Watts A. Johnson, Princeton, was the village attorney.

In 1907, George M. Bryant was the mayor, Harry F. Ream, treasurer, Lloyd Hurlless, Clerk, Til Winkler, night police, Jim Frost, marshal and Frank Michalski was police in Keim's Addition to guard homes under construction.

In 1908, the village council issued 10 bonds of \$500 each to finance the construction of a new village hall. Donald Glassey, DePue, built the hall for \$4,885.90. Frank Powers, W. Heitz and Gus Baumer were new trustees, Charles Pope, the clerk.

In 1909, the village paid the first payment of \$500, on the electric light system to the Lux Light Company.

In 1910, a gasoline fire engine with four cylinders was purchased at a cost of \$1,425.00. The board also purchased 500 feet of fire hose, costing \$237.00. A make-shift library was carried on in the village hall. There were 15 saloons and liquor licenses were \$500 per year.

In this year, too, the law-makers appropriated \$8,000 for a water works system. Water mains were laid. Wils Rice was the main plumber. A street was opened and widened, now known as East Fourth Street, financed by general taxation.

In 1911, Ernest Guenther was president of the board, Herman Bansch, Jacob Feuer and Harry

Dernbach were trustees. An artesian well was drilled. The board appropriated \$400 for lights, \$400 for police, \$600 for salaries and \$1500 for street and alley work. Dr. Rummell had 50 quarantine signs printed in Spanish, Polish, and Austrian. Water rates were set at \$1 per quarter for 15,000 gallons; sprinkler wagons paid \$3 per quarter.

In 1912 and 1913, Ernest Guenther was president; John Goering, Hiram Giesey and Edwin Dinwiddie were trustees. Lengthy water works ordinances were drawn up. The board issued 16 water works bonds to finance the \$8,000 water works system.

The board also appropriated for corporate use for the year \$32,725.00, proof that the village was rapidly expanding and improving. Of that amount \$6,000 was for streets and alleys, \$4,000 for water mains; \$4,500 for construction of a building over the artesian well; \$3,500 motor, pump and equipment; and \$5,000 for the construction of a water tank.

In 1915-16, George M. Bryant was president, Chris Blindt, Ben Floyd, Charles Pierce were the new board members. Water mains were laid in Keim's, Smith's and the East Bluff Additions. Land was purchased from Mary and Charles Banschbach bordering on Lake DePue for a public park. They issued \$10,000 in Public Park Bonds. Electric lights were put in homes in the Hollow Addition.

In 1917, Frank Fowler was president, David Keim, John Feuer and Elmo Walker trustees, George Glover, night police, Herman Bansch, marshal. Streets were oiled. Automobiles were here to stay and traffic ordinances were drawn up.

In 1918, John Rice and Chris Gieler were new board members and Joe Herzog night police. Water rent collected for three months in the village was \$548.19. Charles Pope, clerk, was also water superintendent. The land acquired for the DePue cemetery was surveyed and plotted; 16 special police were appointed to serve the Mineral Point Zinc Plant. The well on the East Bluff was completed by the Plant and ordinances drawn up concerning it.

In 1919, L. G. Duncan was mayor, Jas. Brennan, Frank Cantwell and Fred Krueger were trustees. Martin Kendziarski was marshal, but resigned later and moved away. Many homes were built, more streets opened and graveled, electric light system increased.

In 1920, L. G. Duncan was reelected but later resigned to move away. His term was finished by Fred Krueger. J. Graham, J. P. Helmer and Walter Richardson were trustees. Harry Ream continued to serve as the village treasurer. Village was to be surveyed for a sewer system.

In 1921, Frank Fowler was mayor; David Keim, Chris Johnson and Guy Jensen, trustees. They appropriated \$15,000 to use in extending and improving fire and water system. Water works bonds were issued. A 150,000 gallon tank to be built in the next year.

In 1922-23, F. Fowler was president with J. Graham, J. Helmer, G. Jensen, W. Richardson, D. Keim, C. Johnson trustees. August Bansch was janitor. They appropriated \$14,812.50 for corporate uses, \$6,000 being marked for street improvement. They appointed Moses Hazlett, Henry Heyer, Martin Brennan, Al Lawrence, and John Maurer special police for the zinc plant. Dr. W. Scanlon, 1922, Dr. J. Lewis, 1923, headed the board of health. In 1923, Miss Elizabeth McPheeters (Mrs. T. E. Sullivan) replaced the late Mrs. Andrew Beckley on the board of health.

In 1924, there was an outbreak of typhoid fever. Outhouses and flies were mainly responsible for it. The sale of ice from the lake was prohibited. Plans were started at once for a complete sewer system in the village to cost \$61,500. Ordinances were drawn up concerning it. Motor vehicle tax of \$5 per car was levied. The village purchased a 10,000 gallon tank of road oil. They also purchased a new International fire truck for \$4,700. Frank Cantwell was fire chief.

In 1925, Harvey Seeley was mayor, Guy Jensen, Ernst Hasse, L. A. Buffinger were trustees. A

sewer system contract was granted to Paul De Paola, later taken over by L. A. Mullins.

In 1926, more lengthy ordinances governing the sewer system were drawn up. Joe Herzog was named superintendent of sewers. In that year, too, the board drew up an ordinance permitting the paving of the roadway of a portion of East, Fourth, and Depot streets.

In 1927, and 1928, Harvey Seeley was mayor, Guy Jensen, Eli Edwards, Ernest Hasse and Ignatz Widmar were trustees. A band tax of one-half mill on the dollar was levied for the village band. State gas tax went into effect. Repairs were made to the well.

In 1929, Harvey Seeley was president. Not much interest was shown in the village election as only 47 votes were cast. The village clerk's salary was fixed at \$75 per month; marshal's salary \$150. Teamsters were paid 90 cents per hour, truckers \$1.00, and day laborers, 50 cents per hour.

In 1930, there was competition for village clerk; 634 votes cast. Charles Pope received 455 and Harry Helmer 176 votes. Lloyd Hurless resigned as police magistrate and James Meagher was elected to fill that office.

Administration Years 1930 to 1961

The first half of this era were years of depression and World War II. In 1929 the stock market crashed, business collapsed, banks closed and unemployment spread, and the result was the world wide depression that lasted five years. The Illinois Emergency Relief Commission aided needy communities, DePue included.

In the years 1929 to 1940, through federal W.P.A. aid, DePue carried on a comprehensive program of public improvement. One of the outstanding improvements was the construction of a sewage and disposal plant at a cost of \$60,000 financed through special assessments. DePue received a state commendation, being one of the few communities along the Illinois River to install a system meeting health requirements.

Other projects included a paved street through the main business district to the west entrance of the village; the boulevard lighting system was installed, two four-inch water mains were laid; a bituminous road surface was laid on the road to White City; the athletic field was made; sidewalk improvements were carried out; a walk way was constructed on the East Bluff bridge; well No. 1 was recased and a new eight-inch well sunk.

In 1948-51, with federal W.P.A. aid and special assessment bonds, curbs and gutters were constructed throughout the village, costing \$12,000. In 1948 the first coat of black-top was applied to all arterial streets and in 1949 the second coat was applied at a total cost of approximately \$35,000, financed through the Motor Fuel tax fund.

The lawmakers drew up new ordinances to cover the projects, amended others and in 1933

again passed the ordinance prohibiting the sale of malt and vinous beverages.

Harvey Seeley was mayor from 1930 to 1939. Trustees serving in this period were Guy Jensen, Ernest Hasse, J. W. Heylman, J. Gurnett, G. Dwyer, Mark VanCleave, John Yuwan, W. Richardson and I. Widmar. Harry Helmer became clerk in 1934.

Ernest Hasse was mayor from 1937 to 1943. Trustees with him in 1937 were G. Dwyer, M. VanCleave, J. Yuwan, J. Gurnett, J. P. Helmer and J. Turner. Raymond Rauh was appointed clerk to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Harry Helmer. Harry Ream, Village Treasurer, died in 1942 and C. W. Herzog was appointed to fill the vacancy.

J. P. Helmer was mayor from 1945 to 1949. Stanley Piascyk was village clerk. Trustees with Helmer were L. Reinsch, John Slatner Jr., V. Suarez, and Gurnett who later resigned. Alma McLaughlin filled the vacancy. In 1947, F. Hoffert, T. Glover and F. Siska were elected. Robert Croissant was appointed marshal. Herman Bansch, DePue's beloved policeman for twenty-five years, died in 1946.

A Village Park Commission was created with F. Mickel, W. Glover, T. B. Blanco, N. K. Banks and H. Marple as members. The American Legion, Post 327, named the new park "Memorial Park" in honor of World Wars I and II veterans.

In 1949 Matt Fassino was elected mayor and served until 1961. The board consisted of L. Marliere, J. Marple, V. Suarez, F. Hoffert, F. Siska and T. Glover as trustees, and S. Piascyk as clerk. G. Bryant was night policeman. Marliere resigned and Harry Haupt was named to fill the vacancy.

The same board served in 1950. Erven Floyd

was appointed marshal and George Bryant night policeman. The East Bluff park playgrounds were created. In 1951 the board was changed to include Charles Meadowcroft, who replaced Glover. In 1952 John Heck replaced Haupt. G Bryant resigned and G. Glover was appointed as night policeman. Clerk Piascyk resigned to become postmaster and E. Kwit was appointed clerk.

In 1953-54 the board was Hoffert, Heck, Siska, Suarez, R. Stein and C. Meadowcroft. In 1955-56-57, it was Stein, Heck, Siska, Meadowcroft, Suarez and W. Dolenga.

In 1959-60, W. Dolenga, J. Heck, E. Grilc, R. Stein, V. Suarez and C. Meadowcroft served as trustees. Kwit resigned as clerk and Homer Graham replaced him.

During Mayor Fassino's administration, curbs and gutters were constructed and roads black-

topped in the White City area; an extensive sidewalk improvement program was carried out; a new garbage truck was purchased; improvements made on the ball park; a turbine pump was installed on Well II; a new pump installed in the Water Works Building and a jet pump installed in Well I.

Fourth Street was black-topped; a black topped parking area on "Main Street" was completed in 1956, and a new \$13,000 fire truck was purchased at the close of his term and appropriations made for the construction of a new fire house north of the railroad right of way.

In 1961 Donald Bosnick was elected mayor. He is the son of Paul and Marie Bosnick, DePue business people since the early 1900's. The board elected includes: Trustees Manuel Salcedo, E. Grilc, Louis Machek, V. Suarez, C. Meadowcroft and W. Dolenga with Homer Graham serving as clerk.

— Mrs. Alice Deal

Sixty Years of DePue's Families

When I was given the privilege of writing about our first families in DePue, it seemed as if it would be an easy task since name after name went through my mind. I was around my father's store from the time I could first walk and the people who came and went there were so clear to me.

But when I tried to obtain dates of their birth; when they came to America; when they came to DePue, who they married, I hit snag after snag. In many cases, not even surviving members of these families knew the vital facts. To the Bureau County Republican of June 10, 1902, I owe my thanks for much of the material I gleaned. It was this date that made me decide to make the biographies include from 1840 to 1900, just before the Zinc Plant came to DePue.

Many thanks to Reverend Ruesser, who so generously allowed me to use the records of the Evangelical and Reformed Church of Hollowayville.

There were many families associated with the Village; Rauhs, Dounterman, Hassler, Links, Jacob and Martin Frey, and Herzogs who lived on farms near DePue, and the families who lived on the Ridge. The first voting place of DePue was on the Ridge and so the history is interlaced.

To "Bureau County, Past and Present" I am indebted also, for histories.

There is much I should like to have included as many of these early people were great individuals, but I had to stop somewhere due to the size of the finished book planned on.

The town council proceedings from 1867 to 1900, were also a source of information.

It was not only a privilege but a joy to live DePue again through the history of these first families of DePue and surrounding country.

— Kathryn Frey Godfrey

Bansch, August, Sr.

August Bansch, Sr. came from Germany in 1884, and followed mining. His wife was Theresa Stiefel, daughter of Albert Stiefel. The only one of their children still living in DePue, is August, Jr.

who was born in Germany in 1878, and came to DePue when a young boy. He is married to Theresa Guenther Croisant (widow of Charles Croisant).

Banschbach, Martin

Martin Banschbach was born Aug., 1833 at Oberschefflens, Germany. He came to DePue in 1854. The house he lived in (built by B. Newell) is still occupied by two of his daughters, Elizabeth and Lillian. One of his farms, now known as "The Cornfield" and the other one "The Orchard" (Tinley Ave.) were developed by Mrs. Banschbach for building sites after the Zinc Plant came here. The home was partly a tavern, and once there were 30 Union soldiers stayed overnight enroute to the South. It was at the Banschbach house choir practice was conducted by the leader, Edward Tinley, every week. Mr. Banschbach was married to Anna Marie Redlingschofer.



Gus Baumer, 93, one of DePue's Oldest Citizens and Daughter, Marie Baumer.

Baumer, Gustav

Gustav "Bismarck" Baumer came to DePue from Germany in 1884, with his father and seven brothers and sisters. His wife was Mable Dunterman, daughter of Ben Newell Dunterman. The tract of land now known as the Park Addition, was owned by the Baumer family. Mr. Baumer served as a fireman, and on the town council of DePue. His daughter, Marie, who makes her home with her father, is the only member of the Baumer family still living in DePue. Victor Muzzarelli lives in the old family home.

Bernhardt, Jacob

Jacob Bernhardt was born in 1832, at Freilausheim, Germany, and came to DePue in 1853. He was married to Rosina Frey, daughter of Bernhard Frey. His home, associated in the minds of old timers was "The Green House" which stood where the Torri Garage now is. He ran a store with John M. Orthel, who served as village clerk in 1874. The store stood where the Bosnich Tavern is.

He also had a large warehouse, where farmers brought grain to be shipped out by boat. The foundation stones of this building which burned to the ground, can still be seen, and people sitting on them to watch Labor Day races little realize what an important building they supported.

The entire family moved to Nebraska in 1887 where he was president of the bank at Hastings. He served on the town council many times, and was treasurer in 1867. He and his wife are buried in the Hollawayville Cemetery.

Bernhardt, Philip

Philip Bernhardt, a brother of Jacob, was born 1829. He never married and after the Jacob Bernhardt's moved to Nebraska, he made his home with the Robert D. Padens. He served as president of the town board in 1879.



**George Beyer, Businessman and
Town Marshal in 1885**

Beyer, George

George Beyer was born in Peru, Illinois, in 1859, and came to DePue in 1878. His principal business was the grain elevator which was later bought by George M. Bryant. His wife was Johannah Hopper, of Bureau. In the early 1900s he lived for awhile in Decatur, Ill. He was secretary of the Illinois Grain Dealers in 1903, and sales manager of McLeod Automatic Grain Scale Co., of Pa., at the time of his death. Mrs. James Meagher, a daughter, is the only member of his family still living here.

Brockhaus

The name of Brockhaus was well known in the early days here. A daughter, Maude was married to William Smith, Jr., a son of W. B. Smith. He was very active in the Congregational Church work.

Caughey

Like many of the families who once lived here, the Caughey family is no longer here. A daughter Lilly was married to Charles Hoppler. There were two brothers, John and Sam, and their home was the present home of Ira Searl.

G. M. Clarke

G. M. (Matt) Clarke was born on a farm near Van Orin, Ill., in 1851, and was married to Laura Ann Bryant, who also was born near there. They came to DePue in 1899, and lived where Allie Dilts now lives. Their daughter, Mrs. Clyde Rhyne (Mayme) and son Leonard Clarke still live here.

Joseph H. Croisant

Joseph H. Croisant was born in Munich, Germany, in 1845, and came to Selby Township in 1847. He worked in the mines and served the town as police magistrate. He was deputy sheriff for two years. He was the father of Charles, Henry, Philip, Kate and Minnie. His home was where Paul Van Cleave now lives.

W. B. Curry

W. B. Curry was born at Woodhull, in 1871, and came to DePue in 1895. His barber shop stood where Morse Bryant's store is now. He was married to Minnie Feltes, and they lived in a house next to Piascy's home, known as the Winkler house. There were no children.

Harry Dart

Harry Dart was born at Wyandot, and came to DePue in 1894, after learning telegraphy. He had charge of the Three I and Rock Island railway business. He married Amelia Heitz, daughter of Sam Heitz, and their first home stood next to the Philip 66 Oil Station.

B. F. Ellis

B. F. Ellis came to DePue after serving in the Civil War. His children were George, Lee, Ida, Ella, and Frances. He worked on the railroad and as school janitor. Ella and Frances survive. DePue descendants are members of the George Ellis family, John, Leslie, Bill, and Mary; Ruth, Marvin, Lucy, and the Rev. Percy Ellis live elsewhere. George married Lou Belle Giesey, now 78 years old.

F. A. Fowler

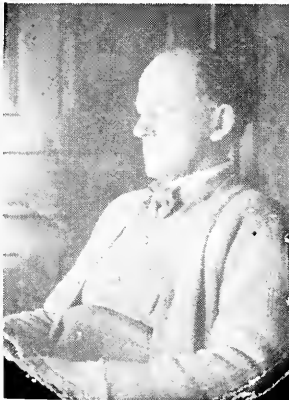
Frank Fowler was born at Henry in 1877. He moved to DePue in 1885, where he conducted a fish business with his father, J. B. Fowler. His wife was Ada Harrison, daughter of William Harrison. He served on the Village Board in 1904, and was later mayor. Mrs. Adolph Ristau is the only member of the family living in DePue.

John B. Feltes

John B. Feltes came from Hennepin, and ran the store that had been run by Bernhard and Orthel. He later ran a grocery store across from Muzzarelli's and after selling out, went to work for Frey Brothers. After many years of bachelorhood he married Charity Dunterman, an aunt of Ben and Selby Dunterman. Their home was the farm recently sold by "Bismarck" Baumer.

John Frey

John Frey, son of Bernhard Frey, was born at Oberschefflens, Germany, Sept., 1883, and after a short time in Philadelphia, came with his family to DePue in 1885. He was the village shoemaker and his store stood on the present site of Lisetta Frey's home. He married Christine Franks from Chicago. He served in the Civil War from DePue and was with General Sherman on his march from Atlanta to the sea. He served as president of the Village Board in 1867. The Huber family and the Banschbachs came from the same town in Germany. The only member of the Frey family still in DePue is Mrs. Harold Godfrey, daughter of Frank Frey.



Frank Frey

Frey, Frank

Frank Frey, the oldest son of John Frey was born in DePue in 1865. He finished business college at Bryant & Stratton's in Detroit, and was a bookkeeper for Brunswick-Balke-Collendar Co. there. He returned to DePue in 1886 and started a general merchandise store with his brother Albert.

This was where the recreation center now is.

He served as agent for the M.P.Z. Co. in the purchase of the land where their plant now stands. He was postmaster for 8 years, president of the DePue State Bank, and was pay master at the Zinc Co.

In 1917, he sold out the store business which had expanded to include the building now occupied by the bowling alley, to Guy Jensen, and went as general manager of a wholesale grocery firm in Peoria. He was seated in his office there when he died of a heart attack in 1923. His wife was Emily Griffith of What Cheer, Iowa, and their home was the present home of Mrs. Mary Dobrich.

Frey, Albert

Albert Frey was the second son of John Frey, born in 1867, and married Grace Hurlless, daughter of Rev. Parker Hurlless. He was in business with his brother, Frank for many years but due to poor health sold out to Frank in 1910. He was county supervisor from Selby Township for many years. His home was the present home of Warren Croissant.

Frey, Martin

Martin Frey was the youngest son of John Frey and made his home with the only sister, Lisetta Frey. When he was 8 years old he developed osteomyelitis and finally amputation of a leg was necessary. In spite of his handicap he helped out in the Frey Store and later Anderson's, and was a member of the DePue Band. He never married.

Geiler, Peter C.

Peter C. Geiler ran a blacksmith shop where the playground east of the gymnasium now is. He was a native of Denmark. His sons, Christ and Henry lived here for many years, and a daughter, Sophie was married to a Mr. Hammond, and died at an early age.

Gethold, Louis

Louis Gethold's name appears in the records of the town council meetings but little is known of him. He came here from Canada, and was a nephew of Mrs. Eli Metevia.

Gewelke, Charles

Charles Gewelke came to this country from Germany when a mere lad. He was married to Minnie Caroline Gewelke. Their home stood behind the house now occupied by their daughter, Mrs. Emma Peters, and son Fritz Gewelke.

Giesey

The Giesey home was at the top of the old Giesey hill. Later they moved to the village. William was a clerk for the Lemp Brewing Co. and never married. He served on the town board. John lived in a house across the street from the Barto Funeral Home, and is the father of Mrs. George Ellis, Mrs. Giesey was Lucy Fox, a cousin of Moses Fox.

Gurnett, John, Sr.

One of the early settlers in what is now DePue was John Gurnett, Sr. Mrs. Gurnett was Bridget Curran and both she and her husband were born in Ireland. Their home was where the Jesse Sad-

nicks now live. Of the eight children born to them, John, Jr. (Jack) is the only one who lives here now. Jack Gurnett was born here in 1877 and is married to Lottie Smith, a daughter of Paul Smith. He was employed for years in the office of the Zinc Co.

Glover, George

George Glover was born near Princeton, but when a small boy, moved to Seatonville. In 1898, he had charge of the Coal Company's meat market at Marquette. Later he had his own market at DePue. He was married in 1898 to Barbara Zimmerman, daughter of Henry Zimmerman. His children still living here are Glen, Thomas, Nola and Raymond.

Goering, George Jacob Sr.

George Jacob Goering Sr. was born in Germany, in 1821, and came to the United States in 1864. His son, George, Jr. was born in 1852 and was married to Julia Hartig. Their farm home stood east of Laicoff's store. A slaughter house for their meat market in the village was quite a bit farther back.

His son was John H. Goering, who was associated with Beyer & Co. and later Mr. Feltes sold his store to Mr. Goering. Later he ran the saloon run by J. B. Fowler, where the Zinc Co. Club House now stands. His first wife was Mayme Beyer, daughter of George Beyer. After her death he married Sophia Kendzierski. He was connected with the C. R. I. & P. Ry., for quite a few years and later went into the real estate business which he conducted in LaSalle until his death.

Goering, George

George Goering was a brother of John Goering, and for many years ran the meat market where the shoe repair shop now is. He was married to Elizabeth McKinstry, a sister of Robert McKinstry. She was born in DePue in 1877. Their home was moved to its present site, the Congregational church parsonage. Mrs. William Krueger, a daughter, still resides here.

Guenther, Ernest

Ernest Guenther, a native of Germany was married in Germany to Kathryn Boos, and came to the United States in 1880, and to DePue in 1882. In 1893, he purchased the store and building of Edward Tinley, where Steele and Bryant now hold forth. He was a town clerk of Selby Township. Of his eight children, Mrs. August Bansch, widow of Charles Croisant, is the only one still living here. After selling out his store, the family home was established where Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Salavanski now live.

Hahn, Fred

Fred Hahn's family, like so many former villagers cannot be traced. It is known the saloon that stood across from the Club House was run by him for many years. Their home was where Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Glover now live. He was married to a sister of Mrs. Stuber, Lindenmeyer by name, coming to Peru from Germany, where he was born in 1846.

Harrison, William

William Harrison was born in Derbyshire,

England, and came to the U.S. in 1882. He owned the Adam Grieg farm only one year when he sold to the Zinc Co. doubling his money. Later they moved to Missouri. Mrs. Clara Talbot, a daughter, still lives in DePue.

Heitz, Sam

Sam Heitz came from Germany. His wife was Barbara, a sister of Theobold Heitz, who came to the U.S. in 1847, and resided on a 300 acre farm in Selby Township. He served as Village Clerk in 1867, and later was police magistrate. Their home was across from the drug store in early days. Harry and Ed Heitz, grandsons, are the only members of his family living in DePue today.

Helmer, John

John Helmer was born in 1840, and was a Civil War veteran from the State of Ohio. His first wife was Hattie Barton. His second wife was Ida May Vose. J. P. "Pod" Helmer, Mrs. Arthur Reistad, and Mrs. Irva Holstrom are the children of this second marriage.

He served DePue as constable. Their son, Sidney Helmer, born in 1870, married Alfaretta Helmer, daughter of Arthur Walker. Mrs. Helmer was born at Manlius in 1877, and came to DePue when a little girl. She and her daughter, Odessa, still live in DePue. In the early 1900's there was a mine sunk near Princeton, and Mr. Helmer won the prize for naming it "Push and Go."

Hoppler, George

George Hoppler was born at Byron, Germany, in 1846, the son of John and Barbara Hoppler who came to the U.S. in 1848 from Germany. He enlisted for service in the Civil War when 17 years of age. At the close of the war he went to St. Louis, finally came back to Princeton, and then DePue where he ran a boarding house for six years. He returned to the farm and remained there. His wife was Philopena Werner. Mrs. Glen Sticken, a granddaughter, lives in DePue.

Hoppler, George Sr.

George Hoppler Sr. was born in Germany in 1834. He was married to Phillipena Croisant, born in 1834, and lived in a house that stood across from the DePue State Bank. Many of the houses, and the calaboose which stood across from the City Hall, were built by him. Kenneth Monnett, son of Elvina Hoppler Monnett, still lives here.

Hoffert, Nicholas

Nicholas Hoffert was born in Alsace-Lorraine, Germany, in 1863 and came to America in 1882, and to DePue in 1895. He was married to Katherine Stuber, a member of a pioneer Bureau Co. family, born in 1871. Fred, Nicholas, Jr. and Roy, sons, live in DePue.

Hosier, George

George Hosier came here from Indiana before the Civil War. His wife was Elizabeth Dogget. He was a Civil War veteran and served on the town board. His daughter, Melissa Jane, was married to Benjamin Newell Dunterman.

Huber, Ulrich, Sr.

Ulrich Huber, Sr., a carpenter by trade, came to DePue from Germany in the early 1850s and was employed in laying tracks for the C. R. I. & P. Railroad. He married Barbara Wentler, and they were the parents of Ulrich Jr., Johanna (Mrs. Paul J. Smith) Simon and Henry Huber. Their eldest son Ulrich, Jr., was born in 1858 and resided in DePue until his death in 1948. At the age of five he was stricken with scarlet fever and blinded. He was a familiar figure about town for many years, and undoubtedly had the distinction of being the citizen with the longest residence in DePue.

He was away from DePue only during the time he attended the Illinois State School for the Blind at Jacksonville, Ill., where he learned Braille. Johanna was married to Paul Smith. Simon and Henry never married. Simon was active in early community activities.

Hulsen, Charles

Charles Hulsen came to DePue from Germany when seven years of age. He worked at the coal mine and was city clerk at one time. He was married in 1900 to Ella Flick.

Hurless, Lloyd

Lloyd Hurless was born at Savanna, Ill., 1875 and came to DePue in 1889. He was married to Ella Brant of Pike County. From 1893 to 1899 he lived at Summer Hill, and then returned to DePue. He served the town as city clerk, alderman, police magistrate and worked in the post office. He makes his home with his daughter, Mrs. Grace Jackson.

Jackson, S. W.

The name of S. W. Jackson appears in village records in 1867. He was proprietor of a store. His son, Summerfield, married Emma Hosier, daughter of George Hosier.

Kellogg

The Kellog family lived in the home where Angel Suarez now lives. Mrs. Kellogg did the village sewing. A son, Ollie, was drowned in the river at Cairo, Ill. A daughter, Rene (Mrs. Wm. Goering) taught in the school here. Her daughter, Mrs. Joseph Carey still lives in Seatonville.

Keim, Oliver

Oliver Keim was born in 1860, and came to this area from Summerset County, Pa., in the late 1880s. He worked as a farm hand on the Mason farm. He married Martha Mason and lived in Marquette where he operated a saw mill producing props for the mine. The family moved to DePue in 1900. Mr. Keim became a landowner, farmer and timberman. The Keim home was always open for any church activities. Mrs. Della Walsh, a daughter, and her family live in DePue. A son, the late David Keim, served on the town board in 1917, 1921 and 1923.

Krieg, Adam

Adam Krieg was born in Germany and came to DePue about 1850. He owned the farm where the east end of the Plant is now. It was on a visit to Mrs. Krieg that Christine Franks met John Frey whom she later married.

Krueger, Fred

Fred Krueger was born in Germany in 1856, and came to DePue in 1882. He became section foreman for the railroad in 1885 and was with the Rock Island until he retired. He married Amelia Schwank, and their children, Mrs. Martin Toovey (Emma) Fred, Jr., and William still reside here.

Lamb, George

George Lamb was born in 1880 at Leavenworth, Kansas and came to DePue in 1898. His wife was Catherine Cahill of Sheffield. Mrs. Ernest Marliere (Viola) is the only one of the children still living here.

Litchfield, Bartholemew

Bartholemew Litchfield was born in England. In 1871, 1872, and 1874, he served as village trustee and in 1891 was village lamp lighter. He served faithfully the Congregational church for many years. A daughter, Edna, was Mrs. Ray Gore. Mrs. Cecil Crocker was another. Their home stood south of the present Donald Bosnich home.

Lusinger, Andrew

Andrew Lusinger was born in 1842 in Switzerland and came with his parents to Rensselaer County, New York. At the breaking out of the Civil War he was living in Wisconsin and joined the infantry there. After the war, he ran a meat market on the corner of Lake and Second streets, in DePue. His wife was Carrie Nisley.

Lusinger, Jacob

Jacob Lusinger was born at Glarus, Switzerland in 1844. He came with his parents to the United States in 1851 to Troy, N.Y. In 1857, the family moved to LaSalle, in 1858 to Ottsville and then to DePue. He was a Civil War veteran. After the war he ran a blacksmith shop across from the home of Mrs. Allie Diltz. Mrs. Viola Isaacson and Miss Angeline Lusinger, his two daughters, still live here. His first wife was Minerva Morseman. After her death he married Ermina Smith, whose family lived at Indiantown. He served the town as president of the board.



Ursula Lusinger, grandmother of Mrs. Viola Isaacson and Angie Lusinger, DePue.



Nicholas Lusinger, grandfather of Mrs. Viola Isaacson and Angie Lusinger, DePue.

Lusinger, Nicholas

Nicholas Lusinger, the father of Andrew and Jacob Lusinger, was born in 1815 and brought his family to this country in 1851. His home was where the Peter Mischevic family now reside.

Lindquist, John

John and Christine Lindquist came from Sweden to Princeton in 1881, and to DePue in 1883. They lived in the house moved back from where the Tyrer house now stands. After four years they purchased a home where George Barnes, Sr., now lives. John, Jr., a son, still lives here and his sister, Olive Lindquist Berglund, lives with him.

Nawa, Stephen

Stephen Nawa was born at Schlesien, in 1857, and came to America in 1882. He served three years in the German army. Before coming to America, he married Elizabeth Kalthoff in 1860, a sister of Mrs. Bernard Yocks. He served the village as alderman and was a check-weigher at the mines. A son, Benjamin, lives on a farm east of Princeton.

Marliere, Frank, Sr.

Frank Marliere Sr. was born in France in 1853, and came to America about 1880. He came to DePue in 1886. His first wife was Stephanie Muller. After her death he married Mrs. Julia DePoru, who still lives here. Ernest, a son of the first wife, is the only child still living here.

Mecum, Frank

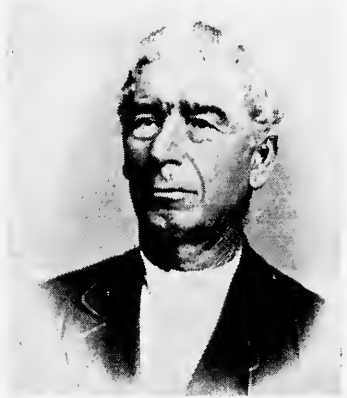
Frank Mecum, born in 1865, was a son of Joseph Mecum who came here before the Civil War, from Ohio. His wife was Mary Schmaus. His mother came from Germany with the Rick and LeBahn families. Robert and Alpha still reside here in the home place.

Metevia, Eli

Eli Metevia, a French-Canadian, lived in the house just south of Gardner Mills. Little is known of them, but many old villagers remember John (Doc) and Miles (Miley), their two sons.

Miller, Jacob

Jacob Miller was known for his wine farm, located where George Barnes, Jr., now lives. He served the town council in 1884.



Louis Monnett, grandfather of Kenneth Monnett

Monnett, Louis

Louis Monnett was the father of Charles Monnett, and grand-father of Kenneth Monnett. He served the town board in 1891. Charles was born in Peru and later lived at Bureau, where Kenneth was born in 1896. He was married to Elvene Hoppler, daughter of George Hoppler Sr. Kenneth still lives here with his daughter, Mrs. Henry Benkse.

Meyer, George

George Meyer was born at Seatonville, in 1870, and came to DePue in 1882. He was foreman at the Three I bridge from 1899 and overseer of the pumping station. His wife was Selina Tucker, daughter of J. Tucker. Their home was the second house south of Ira Searl's home.

McKinstry, W. J.

W. J. McKinstry was born in North Belfast, Ireland in 1825, and his wife, Frances Weir, in South Belfast. He came from Ireland in 1846, to Peru, and about 1876, moved to DePue. In the town records it is reported he had the job of graveling the village walks in 1879. His son, Robert, was born in 1880 and in his later years was custodian at the public school.

In 1891, after a seige of scarlet fever, Robert lost his speech and went to Jacksonville, Ill., where he learned the manual alphabet. He was married to Nellie McCormick, who was born in 1884 in St. Joseph, Mo. They met at the school in Jacksonville.

A daughter, Mrs. Melvin Woolley and a son John, still reside here. Their home was a farm one-fourth mile west along the Rock Island.

Paden, Robert D.

Robert D. Paden was born in Nova Scotia in 1843 and came to the U.S. in 1846. He came to DePue in 1885 and worked in the mine. At the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted in a regiment from Pennsylvania which served in many of the big battles of the war. His wife was Mary Jones of Branchville, Pa. In 1888, when the Jacob Bernhardt's moved to Nebraska, the Padens moved to "The Green House" where they operated a hotel. He served the town many ways and was president of the school board. The only surviving member of his large family now living in DePue, is Robert E. Moran, son of a daughter Martha.

Pope, Charles

Charles Pope, son of Mrs. W. J. Pope, was born about 1875 in DePue, and lived his entire life here. His wife was Katie Guenther, daughter of Ernest Guenther. He served the village as town clerk for a good many years. His mother was born in 1837, Onandaga County, N.Y., and came to DePue in 1868. Mr. Pope was a United Brethren minister. A son Frank, was town clerk in 1884. Mr. Pope was a street commissioner in 1874. Mrs. B. F. Ellis was their daughter.

Powers, Frank

Frank Powers was born at Perrysburg, Ohio in 1857, and came to Lockport, Ill., when 16 years of age. He came to DePue in 1886, where he engaged in fishing. Later he conducted an ice business, with large ice houses filled from the lake. He served the village as a councilman and was president of the school board. Mrs. Powers was Fannie Jane Harris. His son Edward, and a daughter, Mrs. Herman Graham, still reside in DePue.

Seeburger, John

John Seeburger was born in Baden, Germany, about 1840. He arrived in the U.S. and in DePue in 1873, with John and Katrina, and his wife, who was Jacobina Himmel. He served as constable and was a lamp lighter for the village. His first work here was terracing the Link farm (now owned by Aldo Biagioni) for raising grapes. Their home was where Stanley Piascyk now lives.

Savage, Charles

Charles Savage came first to Hennepin, in 1831, and in 1836 settled on the B. N. Dunterman farm near Hollawayville. He owned around 300 acres bluff and valley farmland, 200 acres of this was sold to the M.P.Z. Co. He was famous as auctioneer, and his outstanding sale was \$40,000 of Hall property sold in fifteen minutes.

He was married to Henrietta Young, whose family came to Selby Township in 1842. After selling their land here they moved to a farm near Princeton. A granddaughter, Mrs. Lottie Marple Chase, her sons, Harry, John and Edward, and a granddaughter, Mrs. George Turner, still reside here. Also George Barnes, Jr., son of Kate Savage Barnes.

Shaw, Thomas

Thomas Shaw was of English descent and served the town board in 1881. His son John, or "Poppy" was the last survivor of the family here.

Smith, Frank, Sr.

Frank Smith was a brother of Paul, and lived on a farm where White City begins. His wife was Mary Nisley, daughter of Samuel Nisley, whose home was across from the Park. Glen Smith, a grandson, is the only member of the family here.

Smith, Paul

Paul J. Smith was born in LaSalle County in 1854, and grew up near DePue on his father's farm. His wife was Johanna Huber, born in 1860, in DePue. He was supervisor of Selby Township for at least thirty years, and served on the school board many years. Mrs. John Gurnett (Lottie) and William, Adelaide, Mrs. Nelle Kelly and Mrs. Grace McClure, still live here. A son, Henry, lives in Spring Valley.

Smith, W. B.

W. B. Smith lived where Nola and Raymond Glover now reside. Mrs. Smith was Louisa Williams, a sister of Mrs. Worman. She was a devoted member of the Congregational church, and was a person who could be called on in all emergencies. They are well known by their children, Alma Larsons who taught in the schools here, and George O. Smith, County Superintendent of Schools and later Princeton City schools. A daughter, Nora O'Byrne, was also a teacher and lived here until her death four years ago.

Sullivan, William

William Sullivan was born in Ireland and came to Illinois when a mere boy. He entered the service of the C. R. I. & P railroad in 1878 and came to DePue in 1882 as section foreman. He served on the town board in 1904. The Sullivan home stood between the railroad depot and the main gate of the Zinc Co. and was later moved to its present site. Two daughters, Elizabeth and Catherine, a son Timothy reside here.

Sutcliffe, C. E.

C. E. Sutcliffe was born in Hennepin in 1868, and came to DePue in the late '90s. He was the proprietor of a butcher shop.

Strickmaker, John

John Strickmaker was born in Wichita, Kansas in 1872 and came to DePue in 1878. In 1880, the family returned to Kansas but came back to DePue in 1890. The family home stood where Ray Gore's home is now. He was employed in later years at the river bridge. He never married. He had two brothers, Frank and Joe, who lived in the family home.

Sweeley, Captain Warren

Captain Warren Sweeley came to DePue in 1886 and was married to a member of the Stedman family. He served on the village board in different capacities for many years. The family lived where Ernest Marliere lives now.

Throne, Julius

Julius Throne lived "up the track" from the East Crossing. A son, Otto, married the daughter of Henry Stange, and she was the granddaughter of Bart Litchfield. Mr. Throne was drowned in the Illinois river.

Thiers, Joseph

Joseph Thiers, was born in France, a relative of an ex-president Thiers of France. He came to DePue in 1885, and was married to the widow of Jacob Wolter. Her son, Peter Wolter, was born in Peru in 1863, and came to DePue when 18 years of age. He and his brother, John, were carpenter contractors. The Thiers' farm was west of where George Barnes, Sr., now lives.

Tinley, Edward

Edward Tinley, was a well-known business man for nearly 50 years. A native of Southwall, England, he was born in 1833, and came to this country with his father and mother in 1848, to Frankfort, Illinois.

In 1855, the family moved to what is now known as Tinley Park, Illinois. In 1854, he entered the employ of the railroad as assistant to his father at the station. In 1856, he came to DePue as station agent. His wife was Dorcas Kittell of Mendota. They had no children but raised several nieces and nephews. His duties at the railroad did not engage his entire time and he bought and shipped grain, and was in partnership with Jacob Bernhardt and J. H. Hassler. Due to poor health, he sold his business interests in DePue in 1895.

Mr. and Mrs. Tinley traveled extensively in Europe from 1876 on. He returned to Chicago in 1898, after an extended trip in Canada and lived at the Plaza Hotel in Chicago, where he passed away in 1903. He was cremated according to his wishes and the ashes were conveyed to Princeton. He served the town board in many different capacities and was very active in the Congregational Church here, being choir director for many years.

Tucker, J.

J. Tucker was born in England in 1833, and came to the U.S. in 1866, locating near Pittsburgh, Pa. After a trip back to England, he returned to DePue in 1885. His home was located on a street where the main gate of the Plant is now, about the third house from it. His oldest daughter was married to Aaron Symmonds.

Tucker, Harry

Harry Tucker was born in England in 1854, and came to the U.S. in 1881, locating near Bloomington, Ill. He came to DePue in 1886. His wife, whom he married in 1895, was Mrs. Betsy Savage.

Walker, Arthur

Arthur Walker came first to the Ridge from Indiana. In the late '90s he moved to DePue. He was married to Ella McCune, whose family were early settlers in Bureau county. Mrs. Sid Helmer, a daughter, and two sons, Leo and Elmo, live here.

White, Mike

Mike White came to DePue in 1847, and settled near the village. He served in the Civil War, and

wound up in Andersonville Prison. He was laid out with the dead but was saved by a considerate Confederate soldier. Scarcely able to walk or move, he finally got home to DePue, weighing only 68 pounds.

Wolff, Clem

Clem Wolff, born in 1866 in Germany, came to DePue in 1882. His sister was Mrs. Bernard Yocks, and Mrs. James Lawless is his niece. He was an expert painter and decorator. Mr. Wolff never married.

Worman, W. B.

W. B. Worman was born in Germany and was a pioneer grape grower on the hills west of DePue. His home was where Mr. and Mrs. Leo Utterback now reside.

Yocks, Bernard

Bernard Yocks, was born in Wastphalia, Germany in 1853, and came to the U.S. in 1881, going to Braidwood first. He came to DePue a few months later. He was married to Marie Kalthoff, a sister of Mrs. Stephen Nawa. He was village constable and lamplighter, after years at the mine. His daughter, Mrs. James Lawless, lives here.

Yunker, John

John Yunker, a nephew of Warren Sweeley, came to DePue from Prince Edward Island, when 20 years old. His wife, Margaret McKinstry, a daughter of W. J. McKinstry, was born at Peru, Illinois in 1868. Their home was about one-fourth mile west of DePue near the Rock Island tracks. The former Carrie Yunker Helmer was their youngest daughter.

Zimmerman, Henry

Henry Zimmerman was born at Scranton, Pa., Oct. 23, 1840. In 1888, they moved to DePue from Morris where Barbara (Mrs. George Glover) was born in 1878. He was married to Catherine Paden, a sister of Robert D. Paden, at Pottsville, Pa. Glen, Raymond, Thomas and Nola, Glover and Albert Sanger, grandchildren, and Anita Sanger Haywood, live here.

The following is a list of names taken from town council proceedings starting in 1867, and no further trace of them can be found:

J. Hassler — 1869-70 Mayor

A. Stiefel — father of Mrs. August Bansch, Sr.

R. Wolfe

Moses Fox — wife of Diantha Solomon

L. Werner

Charles Hilliard — 1875

Albert Eiselman

Albert LeBahn

Aaron Symmonds — wife was daughter of J. Tucker

W. M. Young — 1871

H. G. Young — clerk 1870

E. C. Wilson — pound master 1871.

H. Barber — village board 1871

W. H. Hill — village clerk 1873

Amos Tuttle — Pound Master 1873

C. Druher — Judge of Election 1873

D. Myers — council 1874

Adolph Dunterman — town council, married to Caroline, sister of John Frey

John M. Orthel — clerk, 1874, in business with Jacob Bernhard

W. Hoskins — a Judge and personal friend of Abraham Lincoln.

Philip Hassler — 1877

Jacob Schmidt — 1877

Sam and John Caughey — 1877

John A. Reed — Constable 1877

Edward Haven — Constable

D. W. Lindsay — 1878

Pat Curran — cousin of John Gurnett

Thomas Dowling — street commissioner and constable

George O. Wheeler — village clerk.

W. B. Worman — 1883

James Casford — 1883. His wife was Elizabeth Caughey

Jessie Tying — a teacher

D. Griffin — a teacher

S. G. Hicks — 1869

Searl's Ridge Families

There has always existed a close relationship between the DePue and Searl's Ridge people. The histories interlace to the extent that one would be incomplete without the other. These are early families.

Bohm, William

William Bohm was born in Germany in 1856, the son of John and Mary Wolf Bohm. He married Christina Edlefson. They had 11 children; three died in infancy. Those living are Edward, John, William, Emma, Arthur, Carl, Jennie, and Lester. Mr. Bohm started out in life empty-handed and grew to be a prosperous farmer.

Clark, John

John Clark married Jane Sallee in 1829 and came to Searl's Ridge in 1830 on horseback in company with Judge William Hoskins and party of 17. In 1831, they entered a claim at Lake DePue. In 1832 when the Black Hawk war broke out they were forced to move to Fort Wilson, six miles east of Hennepin.

They saw the first steam boat to land at DePue, then called Clark's Landing. They moved to the Ridge in 1844. Mr. Clark died in 1848. They had 7 children. Mrs. Clark married William Charles in 1855. John and Robert Clark came with their family from Kentucky and settled at Clark's Landing (DePue). They received land from the government in 1830. They later sold it to Ben Newell and moved to the Ridge. John married Harriet Reynolds.

They had 6 children; a son Ben married Cordilia Searl and became parents of Bessie, Alvah, Harve, and Bert. Alvah and wife Edythe Randall who still resides on the Ridge had 7 children, Dale, Ronald, and Zelah are deceased; other children are Ruth Burkman, Dorene Jones and Maurice. Their daughter, Berniece Bryant and family reside on the Ridge. John, another son of John and Marriet Clark, had 6 children. His daughter Emma married Ed Meyer. Mrs. Ben Dunterman is his daughter.

Hassler, John

John Hassler was born in Zurich, Switzerland in 1764. He married Christina C. Rossig and came to America in 1834, landing in New Orleans, then came up the Mississippi to Hennepin. They pur-

chased a claim of 1,800 acres of land from John Hall in Selby Township.

It was due to their influence that many German families settled in Hollowayville. They had 7 children — John, Rudolph, Henry, Charles, Herman, Charlotte, and Jacob. Mr. Hassler only lived two years after coming to America.

Herzog, Anton

Anton Herzog was born in Germany in 1844. He came to America in 1867. He married Annie Rauh. They had four children — William, Joseph, Elizabeth who married Philip Link, and John who married Rosa Frey. Clarence Herzog and family DePue, and Clarice Link, Peru, are descendants of the John and Rosa Herzog family.

Hoskins, William

William Hoskins came to the Ridge in 1831 from Kentucky. He married Rebecca Kellums. They had six children. Abraham Lincoln spent a night in the Hoskins home after speaking in Princeton on July 4, 1856. The Hoskins were the great grandparents of Mrs. Pearl Mavity Archer of DePue. Hoskins was the first Bureau County Judge.

Lange, John

John Lange and Helene Krueger Lange and two children — Charles and Fredereca — came to Chicago from Micklenburg, Germany. After experiencing the Chicago fire, they moved to Searl's Ridge to farm. They had 12 children — Herman, Louis, Mennie, Albert, and Fred died during a diphtheria epidemic; others were Henry, William, Anna Adolph, and Frank, the only living child. Miss Jessie Lange of DePue and sister Alta Frances are daughters of the Charles and Elizabeth Schmaus Lange family.

Link, Jacob

Jacob Link was born in Rhine, Germany in 1843 and came to America in 1864 to Peru, Ill. He worked as a farm hand. He married Philopina Doll. In 1881 he purchased a farm in Selby Township. Their children were Elizabeth, Katie, Jacob, Philip, Mary George, and Lucy. Philip married Elizabeth Herzog and farmed in Selby Township many years. He served as road commissioner. Their daughters,

Mrs. Luella Wolfer and Mrs. Violet Wolf are Bureau County farmers.

Marple, David

David Marple was born in Bureau county — no date was available. He fought in the Civil War in Virginia. He married Isabell Fox. They had 12 children — Richard, Harry, Rosie, Ella, Dan, Mary, Dwight, Lucy, Nora, Minnie, John, and Rosie Marie. Mike Marple, son of Dan, and John, Harry, and Edward, sons of John, reside in DePue.

McWilliams, J. F.

J. F. McWilliams was born in Ohio in 1843 and came to Illinois at the age of 15 with his parents, William F. and Mary (Van Wy). He served as township supervisor, assessor, and collector. He married Mary Miller. They had 3 children — Charles D., Bertha, and William. He was one of the most highly esteemed residents of this community.

Nawa, Stephen

Stephen Nawa was born in Schlesien, Germany in 1857. He had an advanced education there. He married Elizabeth Kalthoff and came to America in 1882. They resided for some years in DePue. He was a coal miner for four years. He rented a farm from Charles Savage; then purchased his own farm. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Nawa, namely, Matilda, William, Frank, Ben, Fred, Emma, Annie, Mary, John, and Freda. He served as alderman at DePue. They were members of the Toilers. Mrs. William Nawa, (Laura Petersen) resides in DePue.

Rauh, Joseph

Joseph Rauh was born in Bavaria, Germany in 1826. He married Elizabeth Young and came to America in 1851 landing in New Orleans; then he came up the Mississippi to St. Louis and later to Peru. He began to farm and in 1863 was able to purchase 160 acres on the Ridge. They had 8 children — William, Joseph, Anna, Andrew, Elizabeth, Philopena, Valentine, and John. Mr. Rauh married Mrs. Louisa Rakor Cogler in 1881. They had one son, Henry.

Rick, J. C.

J. C. Rick was born in Selby Township in 1873, the son of Charles and Emma Lebahn Rick who came to America in 1869. He farmed 144 acres between DePue and Hollowayville. He married Kate Link. They had 3 children — Laura, Clarence, and Florence. They were members of the German Lutheran church.

Rhyme, Timothy

Timothy Rhyme was born in Bureau county in 1857. He was the son of John and Russina Searl Rhyme. He owned and farmed 327 acres of improved land and engaged in stock raising. He married Lillie B. Smith in 1879. They had 8 children — Lillian, Myrtle, Gertrude, Charles, Joseph, Darlene, Hazel who resides in Bureau, Clyde and family and Rhyme Ellis, a grandson and family in DePue. He was road commissioner for 12 years. They were Congregationalists.

Searl Families

Searl's Ridge first known as Hoskins Prairie was part of Putnam county when the five Searl brothers came to the Ridge to settle. They were Brown, Job, John, Timothy, and David. David later moved to Hennepin.

John S. Searl arrived in Bureau county in 1834. He was the son of Brown and Barbara Ann Hosier Searl. He had 3 brothers — Tim, Peter, William, and a sister Melessa; all moved elsewhere. John S. continued to live in Bureau county. He married Amanda Miller. They had 10 children.

E. Grant Searl, son of John and Amanda, was born in Selby Township on the old home place in 1868. He married Katie Heitz. They had 3 children, Ira, a resident of DePue, survives. E. Grant was farmer, stock raiser, and served as road commissioner in 1906.

Brown Searl farmed 640 acres on the Ridge, secured from the government in 1836. He died in 1869 and his wife in 1892. Both are buried on the Ridge.

Smith, W. R.

W. R. Smith was born in Ohio in 1829 and was the son of Isaac and Lucinda Bartley Smith. He came to Bureau county in 1852. He moved away but came back in 1860. He married Susan Hartzell. They had 10 children. Alonzo and John operated the home farm with sister Linnie. They raised Norman horses, Angus cattle, and a race horse called "Cyclone." They were Congregationalists. Their other children were Melissa, Viola, Lilly B., Mary L., John, Nora, and Edith.

Stuber, William

William and Catherine Lindenmier Stuber settled in this area over 75 years ago. Mr. Stuber came from Edenkoben, Germany at the age of 14 in 1854. Mrs. Stuber was born in Peru. She was a practical nurse, (Midwife) and will be remembered by many old settlers. They had 4 children — Catherine and Elizabeth are deceased; Fred and wife live on the homeplace, and Emma. Mrs. Oscar Collier, a granddaughter, lives on the Ridge.

White, Michael

Michael White was born in Munich, Germany in 1834. He married Elizabeth Sa Lee who was reared on the Ridge. "Mike" White was a Civil War Veteran and was imprisoned at Andersonville for quite a spell. Their children were William, George, Belle, Mary, and Tiberias (Bidge).

Searl's Ridge School

About 100 years ago the first known school building was a log cabin just east of the cemetery. W. R. Searl and Lucinda Hoskins were students. The informant couldn't recall other names.

About 15 years later a frame building was erected south of the present site. The rocks used as corner stones can still be seen. In 1875, the larger building was built and Jeff Daves was the teacher. There were about 60 pupils.

According to records of County Supt. of Schools, Floyd French, 23 teachers had taught the Ridge School. Among them were Jessie Lange,

Berniece Clark Bryant, and Grace Stuber.

The school was closed in 1947 when the district combined with the Bureau school. Many of the Ridge students attended DePue high school.

Searl's Ridge Church and Cemetery

The Searl family donated a plot of ground for the cemetery and adjoining land was purchased by the community. Searl's Ridge church was built in 1876. Many pioneers of this area, and Civil War veterans are buried on the Ridge, as it was the first cemetery.

Searl's Ridge Ladies Aid was formed in 1914, and aided by the men kept the cemetery and church in readiness.

In recent years it has been taken over by the Ridge Cemetery Association of Selby Township appointed by the State. Trustees are M. Hassler, president; C. Wagner, vice-president; M. Clark, treasurer; Mrs. Oscar Collier, secretary; C. McCue, O. Collier, and Jim Marple.

The first church was Methodist Episcopal called Ridge Chapel. It later became Congregational with Rev. Parker Hurless, pastor. W. Smith and son John were Sunday school superintendents.

The church building has been taken over by a newly formed organization called The Hiltoppers. It will be remodeled into a social center.

Sources of Material Used in This History of Searl's Ridge

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2. Bureau County Directory. J. C. Kelly and Company, Compilers and Publishers, 1897-98. Mrs. James Williams, Bureau, Illinois.
3. Bureau County Republican. Centennial Edition, 1937.
4. Mrs. Oscar Collier, Princeton, Illinois.
5. Daily News Tribune.
6. History of Bureau County, 1885. H. C. Bradshy, by World Pub. Co.
7. Marian Lange and Jessie Lange.
8. Past and Present of Bureau county, George Garrington, published by Pioneer Publishing Company, 1906.
9. Mrs. Madge Pierce Podobinski.

Compiled by Berniece Clark Bryant. Typed by Ruth Clark Burkman.

Lake DePue

The lake, approximately five miles long and three-fourths of a mile wide, was discovered by an early French missionary in 1673. The first Christian services in this area were held on its shore when Father Marquette landed, erected a cross, and said Mass. According to his journal "his party discovered the beautiful lake which they named DePue, and many Indians were camped nearby." It is also said that the lake was named for an early Indian trader.

The purity of Lake DePue's water made the town famous for its ice industry, carried on the

year around before the days of modern refrigeration. Chief among consumers of DePue ice were the W. L. Lemp Brewing Company and the Anheuser Busch Brewery, of St. Louis.

The ice harvest furnished work all winter for all residents of DePue, and neighboring farmers with their horses. The breweries first erected an ice house on the lake shore that held 60,000 tons of ice and later built another to hold 40,000 tons.

The Lempe Co., had a boat yard (where the playground is now) and an office. Docks were built all along the lake front.



F. L. Powers & Co. Ice House near Lake DePue

The breweries owned a fleet of barges of 800 to 1400 tons capacity to transport the ice. The barges were towed into Lake DePue before it froze. A good winter would yield enough ice to fill the barges and ice houses. One winter the ice lasted long enough to cut ice for a pile of 30,000 tons. It was packed in sawdust.

Twelve-year-old boys were paid 50 cents a day to work in the ice channels in 22 degrees below zero weather. Top wages were \$1.75 a day for packers in the ice houses and railroad cars. Today the ice houses are gone.

Another early industry of DePue was commercial fishing in Lake DePue and the Illinois river. Fishermen's shanties lined the lake shore, and boats, nets, seines, hoops, and trammels were familiar to DePue residents. Many old timers built their own boats and kept them in repairs, and made their own nets.

Fine fish sold for 5 to 7 cents a pound, and coarse fish from 3 to 5 cents.

Old time fishermen included "Big Fish" Charles Nelson, Andrew Lusinger, Frank Powers and sons, George Hoppler and sons, the Strickmaker brothers, the Shaws and Marlieres. Frank Powers made the largest haul ever made at one time — 100,000 pounds.

Art Reistad, a Power's employee, remembers the big haul. He also remembers catching 25,000 pounds of buffalo fish at one haul, which were sold on the Chicago market for 8 cents a pound. The largest buffalo weighed 25 pounds, but earlier settlers remember fish weighing 40 to 50 pounds.

Reistad recalls good clamming days in DePue in 1910-11, when 10 carloads of clam shells were shipped to Muscatine, Iowa, for buttons. The Illinois River ranked second in the United States as a fish-producer at one time. There is very little commercial fishing now.

Lake DePue was, and is, a source of pleasure, winter and summer, to local citizens and outsiders who come for boating, ice skating, hunting and fishing. Swimming is no longer enjoyed as the water is quite muddy.

Show boats frequently came up the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers to Lake DePue. Chief among them were the "Cotton Blossom," "The Golden Rod" and "French's Sensation." Boat excursions were another river pleasure. "The Julia Belle," "The David Swain" and others came to DePue regularly for moonlight cruises and daytime trips to Peoria and return. These boats featured a dance orchestra. There was bar, dining-room, and "lover's deck."

For many years the lake has not been opened to heavy traffic due to the "filling in" of silt. However, many pleasure crafts take advantage of the lake during summer.

Outboard regattas are held here annually, by the American Power Boat Association. Last year, 1960, was the tenth year that the Divisional Championship races were held in DePue. This year, the A. P. B. A. National Championship races will be the feature attraction of the DePue Centennial celebration in September.



Boat Races on July 4, 1914

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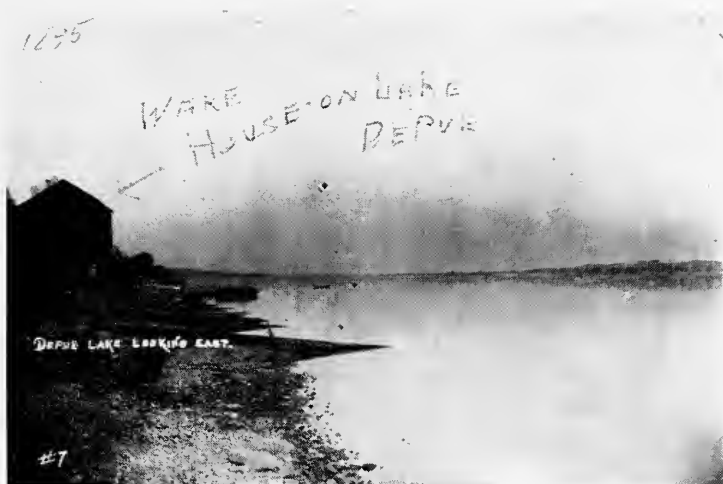
Looking Toward DePue from Aldo Biagioni's Farm



Excursion Boat on Lake DePue — 1911



First Labor Day — 1914



Warehouse on Lake DePue — 1895



Labor Day Celebration - 1914 - Lake DePue Commercial Club

Lake DePue Park And Assembly

Lake DePue, in close proximity to the Illinois River was a natural harbor or landing place for boats carrying freight and merchandise, and pleasure boats. It was the center of attraction in the hey-day of the Lake DePue Park and Assembly. It has long passed, but old residents can remember that it was grand while it lasted.

This Bureau County summer resort was organized in 1903 by Rev. Anderson with J. Yerly president, M. Elliott, secretary and D. H. Palmer treasurer. It was located one-half mile east of DePue in what is now known as the Park Addition.

A chautauqua and amusement park, it boasted an auditorium, also used as a dance pavilion, which was the second largest in the state.

Audiences of 2,000 attended the meetings to hear such speakers as Co. Henry Watterson; Capt. Richmond Hobson, the hero of the Merrimac; the Rev. Sam Jones, the original Sam Jones, famous orator and evangelist; Father I. J. Vaughn, and Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor. All were booked at the park within a few months.

Other entertainment included the Chicago Lyceum Ladies quarter, Dixie Jubilee Singers, Byron's Famous Minstrel and Glee Club.

The Chicago, Rock Island and Peoria trains brought in many visitors, as did the Three-I trains that came to DePue on a spur from the main line at Howe. Steamboats, too, landed daily with Sunday school picnics, labor union meetings, lodge outings and club parties.

In the park were cottages and tents for rent

and an up-to-date hotel with fine meals and accommodations, including telephone, telegraph and postal conveniences. There were rowboats, fishing boats and electric launches to be rented by the hour. Steamboat excursions took pleasure-seekers around the lake for 10 cents. Launch rides were the same price.

Steamers of the Illinois River Packet Co., made daily trips from the park to the river towns of Henry, Hennepin, Lacon, Chillicothe and Peoria. Boats were of first class material, carpeted and cushioned.

No liquor or gambling were allowed in the park, but entertainment was various and inexpensive — toboggan slide, 10 cents; shooting gallery, merry-go-round and ocean wave, 10 cents; diving board, 10 cents an hour; bowling, 10 cents; baseball games, 25 cents; ping pong, 10 cents; tennis, croquet, hammocks and swings, free.

The park had its own stables, and any demand for carriages or saddle horses could be met. The drives were charming, and Bureau County boasted of her roads.

The park was noted for its baseball games. The line-up of the 1904 team was: Chris Gieler, third base; Herman Bansch, second; Larry McGonigle, first base and Captain; W. Seeburger, shortstop; W. Hynds, right field; A. Smith, center field; O. Throne, left field; Ben Yocks, pitcher; Henry Gieler, catcher. Substitutes were R. Flick, and Al. Bansch, and Ray Humphrey was manager.

But in two years, the park was closed — expenses couldn't be met, and the project died as quickly as it was born.



Pavilion and Club House

The New Jersey Zinc Company

The rapid expansion of industry in this country around the turn of the century greatly increased the requirements for slab zinc in the Middle West. The New Jersey Zinc Company, established in the east since 1848, decided that additional smelting capacity was needed to take care of the increased demand.

The search for amid-west plant site ended in DePue.

Here were ample freight facilities, proximity to the Illinois coal fields and pleasant living conditions.

Construction of the new plant began in 1905 on land which had comprised the farms of Charles Savage and Wm. Harrison. Additional land for the plant site was purchased from Bernard Yocks, Jemimah Nisley, Polly Ann Pannebaker, J. H. Graham, Frank Marliere, Fred Heitz, Ida Ellis, Nicholas Luchsinger, J. Wolter, Henry Huber, J. Tucker, E. Thron, P. J. Smith, Oliver Keim and others. The plant site comprised approximately 175 acres.

The first plant built had facilities for the production of slab zinc and sulfuric acid, and when completed was the largest plant of its kind in the United States. In 1923 a plant for the manufacture of lithopone, a widely used zinc pigment, was added to supply the growing demand for that product. The lithopone plant was operated until 1956 when the increasing use of titanium dioxide as a pigment made the production of lithopone uneconomic and the lithopone operation was shut down.

With the start of the plant in 1905, W. A. Moore was appointed plant superintendent, to be followed by M. F. Chase in 1906. Chase remained in charge until 1914 when W. M. Kelsey was made superintendent. In 1916 D. C. Wray was placed in charge of the plant and in 1921 he was replaced by H. G. Hixon, under whose guidance the plant weathered two depressions and rapidly expanded to meet the

demands of World War II. In 1948, after 27 years of service both to the plant and the community, Hixon retired. His duties were assumed by N. K. Banks, who was succeeded in 1957, by Paul Jensen, the present superintendent.

The number of people employed at the plant has varied with demand, products made, and technical changes of process. At present 380 persons are employed.

The employment at the DePue plant has been stable, as is evidenced by the long years of service of many of its employees. Of the present enrollment over 85 percent have service of 5 years or more. Nearly 57 percent have service of over 20 years; 33 percent over 25 years, 22 percent over 30 years. Eight employees have service of over 40 years, 5 have service of over 45 years.

Out of the DePue plant of the New Jersey Zinc Company comes a steady stream of zinc products for use of many American industries. The automobile industry is the largest user of die castings made from alloys containing Horse Head special zinc which is 99.99+ percent pure. Zinc die castings are used extensively in the manufacture of washing machines, refrigerators, business machines, hardware and small tools.

Horse Head Special zinc, along with slightly lower grades, is consumed in large quantities by the galvanizing industry in the production of zinc coatings on steel.

A great deal of Horse Head special zinc is used in the brass industry, to produce high quality brass products such as household hardware, plumbing equipment and rods and tubes for industrial uses.

The Company is also an important producer of metal powders which are finding increasing use in the fabrication, by powder metallurgy methods, of small metal parts.



Acid Plant and First Smelter Building



1903 — Where Zinc Works main gate stands today

Polish - Austrian - Croation Population

A large percent of DePue's population for over 50 years has been families of these descents. Their customs, polka dances, accordion music, and singing groups, mixed with other customs of the village, helped make DePue a typical American town.

Their recipes from "old country" for Potica, Krapci, Pierogi, Strudel, Goulash, sausages and soups have grown in popularity through the years.

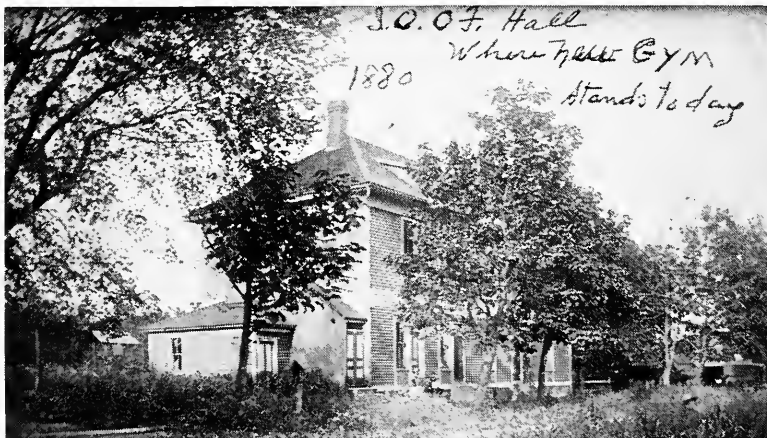
Many of the early families were saloon keepers. Some were in business and the second generation have continued in their parents' establishments. Helen and Tony Grbac continue to run the dairy; Vincent and Louis Machek in their father's market; and Mary Planten in the Vozel-Zickar store.

Most of this population are members of St.

Mary's parish. They have always taken an active interest in school and civic organizations. Many of the second and third generations have acquired degrees in education. Many are in business elsewhere.

The lodges of these people are listed in another chapter. Of special interest in 1916 was the Polish Falcons of DePue, Nest 701, of the Polish Alliance of America. Their petition asking permission to drill and parade in the Village was signed by 100 signatures. Listed are a few: Sulina, Potoschi, Giborowski, Meger, Spayer, Kemieciak, Trock, Gols, Koszloski, Kendzierski, Kuss, Truszkowski, Dembauski, Zieliesskiewicz, Zyskowski, Badinowicz, Iwaniki and Kopytkiewicz.

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I.O.O.F. Hall In 1880; New Gym Stands Here Today

The Mexican Population

The first Mexican family to come to DePue was the Phillip Barrosas in 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Barrosa are deceased, but their son Manuel and family live in DePue. Their other children have moved away.

The Apolinar Gomez family came in 1917 after living a short time in Bureau. Seven of their children have moved away, but Isabel, a teacher in the Peru Roosevelt school, lives at home. Mr. Gomez will retire from the New Jersey Zinc Company in July.

The Jesus and Faustino Barajas came in 1918 and moved away in the 1930's. From 1918 to 1923, the following families came: Hilario Rodriguez, Sr., Sabino Padillo, Peter Manriquez and his parents, Antonio Cerda and Steve Torres. Others came but later moved to Davenport, Iowa, in the 1940's. In 1924 the Manuel Galindo, Sr., family came. Mrs. Galindo passed away in 1961 and Mr. Galindo returned to Mexico.

There are now approximately fifty-five families in DePue, most of them being second generation young adults. The Padillas, Manriquezs, Castanedas, and Montezes are one "big family."

They had their own customs and music, and

organized a band in the early 1930's, playing at social gatherings and several times at P-TA meetings. The young people organized a club called the Aztecs. In the 1940's it was reorganized and called the Mexican Youth Club. It promoted sports, dances and contests and existed until 1950.

The Mexicans are members of St. Mary's parish. They presented as a gift to the church, a fluorescent light halo-frame for the main altar.

Their special foods, such as tocos and enchiladas, are enjoyed by many DePue people at the Lakeview tavern, which is operated by the Jesus Venegas family.

Forty-three boys and two girls from DePue served in World War II. Joseph Espinoza gave his life in Germany in 1945.

Some of the second generation have become teachers, nurses, musicians and businessmen. This year Manuel Salcedo was elected to the town board. Miss Lupe Ponce, a graduate of the DePue schools and Northern State Teachers' College, has taught in the DePue schools for the past ten years. It was through her efforts we were able to compile this short history of the Mexican population.

The Spanish Population

The Spanish families, smaller in number than the other three nationalities listed, came in the early 1900's. The men were "furnace men" at the plant. Some entered into business at various times, including the Blanco, Garcia, and Suarez families. Some of the second generation are in business in DePue and elsewhere; others have acquired college degrees and are teachers and nurses.

Prominent early Spanish families were the

Blancos: Max, Tom, Manuel and Martin; the Suarezes: Vincent, Angel, Manuel, Joseph and Olegario; the Garcias: Joseph, Angel and Servando; Manuel Busto, Manuel Modesto, Joseph Martinez, A. Alvarez, Marcelino Rodriguez, and the Menendez, Lopez, Vega and Fernandez families.

It has been reported that at one time, there were 27 nationalities in the village.

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George M. Bryant Store — 1906

History of St. Mary's Parish, DePue, Illinois

1961

Although a history of Bureau County, published a century ago, tells us that the first Christian services held in Bureau County were held in 1673, when Father Marquette, a missionary priest landed on the shore of Lake DePue, erected a cross and said Mass, there is no record of any further Catholic services in DePue, until more than two centuries had passed.

In the early 1900's, the Catholics of DePue,

numbering then about seventy-five families, were served by visiting priests from Peru, LaSalle and Spring Valley, in the early mission. Services were held in Fowler's Hall, on the second floor of what is today known as the Lakeview Tavern.

In this hall was solemnized the first Catholic wedding in DePue, in September, 1908, that of Monica Truck and Vincent Staskiewicz, the parents of Ray Staskiewicz.



Polish Church DePue — 1907

The Catholic population of DePue at that time was known as St. Mary of Czestochawa, when it was organized in 1908. In 1909, a frame church building was erected in the White City district, on land donated by the late Oliver Keim. The parish was under the pastorate of Fr. Casimir Truszynski of St. Valentine's in Peru. He was succeeded in turn by Father Przybyz and Father Dwernicki.

Located as it was, away from the main part of town, the frame church was inconveniently located for many of its parishioners, so in 1916, it was moved from the site in White City to the present church site in the Park Addition.

In 1914, Fr. Anthony Majewski became the resident pastor, serving until 1919. During his pastorate the parish purchased a large club house from the New Jersey Zinc Co. The building stood on the present site of St. Mary's Hall, and had been used as a hotel when DePue was known as a resort

town. The building was converted into a school and rectory, and was used for a time for church services.

Early in 1917, a disastrous fire destroyed the school and rectory building. A new brick parish house was erected in 1918, at a cost of \$8,000.

In 1919, Father S. F. Kubiak replaced Fr. Majewski, serving until 1930. During this time a new school was erected. It was staffed by Felician Sisters, with an enrollment of over 100 pupils. During the depression years it became necessary to discontinue the school, and the building became known as St. Mary's Hall.

Tragedy struck a second time in 1924, when the frame church building was destroyed by fire. Immediately plans were made for rebuilding, and in 1925, a new brick structure erected at a cost of \$30,000.00 was dedicated with appropriate services. By 1948, the indebtedness had all been cleared.



St. Mary's Catholic Church and Rectory — 1961

In September, 1930, Father M. T. Szalewski succeeded Father Kubiak, remaining until 1952, when ill health forced his retirement, and Father Dzurko, the present pastor, succeeded him.

Meanwhile the church has shown a steady growth in membership, with many nationalities represented, and the name was changed to St. Mary's. Today there are over 300 families in its membership.

Included among the organizations active in supporting church programs and raising funds for the various necessities of the parish are the Holy Name Society, St. Anne's Sodality, Young Ladies Altar Sodality, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sodality.

Playing an important part in church life are the senior and junior choirs, with Miss Nancy Rauh as organist. During the past, this important position has been filled by Mrs. Fay Gutshall and Mrs. Vincent Staskiewicz (both now deceased), Miss Julie Rettko (Mrs. Robert Drugan), Miss Susan Rettko, (Mrs. David Kristo), Miss Judith Szygenda (Mrs. Ronald Actis) and Miss Barbara Staskiewicz.

Vocations include five nuns who have dedicated their lives to the service of God, namely:

Sister Mary Benigna, the former Catherine Ladyga, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ladyga, and a twin sister of Julius Ladyga, of the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.

Sister Mary Loretta, the former Martha Anne Terando, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Terando, of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception.

Sister Clare Marie, the former Delores Giovannine, daughter of Angel and the late Johanna Leonard Giovannine, of the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

Sister Mary Sean, the former Sheila Gurnett, daughter of Gail and the late Mary Cassidy Gurnett, and a twin sister Sr. Vincetta, of the Order of St. Benedict, now stationed at Nauvoo, Ill.

Sister Mary Vincetta, is the former Nora Gurnett, daughter of Gail and the late Mary Cassidy Gurnett, and a twin sister of Sr. Sean of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, now stationed at Holy Cross Seminary Notre Dame, Indiana.

It is interesting to note that of the five nuns, three have the distinction of being registered nurses and two are twins. — Grace Smith McClure

DePue Congregational Church

The Rev. E. Paddock recorded his unsuccessful attempt in 1880 to establish a church in the village. But a year later he was asked to return, "Because the recent election had changed the complexion of the town."

He started Sunday school in the school basement, and through many adverse conditions, continued to hold services. Eventually a church was organized. He and his followers, besides begging

for funds to finance a church, put in many hard days work building and painting it.

The building was dedicated in 1886 as a Congregational church and served the people until 1925. There were twenty-two charter members in the 1886 church. Two remain, Lillian and Elizabeth Banschbach, whose ages are ninety and ninety-two, respectively.

Ministers of the church include Reverends W.

P. Pease 1886-87; E. A. Paddock 1887-?; Parker Hurless 1889-94; M. Williams 1894-96; D. J. Torrence 1897-99; T. R. Edgerton 1900-01; M. C. Elliott 1901-02; Parker Hurless 1902-06; W. Pierce 1906-07; H. F. Hegner 1907-09; T. R. Edgerton 1909-10; F. H. Anderson 1912-14; W. W. Hart 1914-15; F. C. Carpenter 1916-18; I. C. Campbell 2 months; F. L. Breen 6 months; John Dornhoeffer 1919-28; A. B. Miller 1928-30; C. B. Gould 1930-36; H. Putney 1936-40; S. Lee 1941-43; J. S. Shelby 1943-44; L. Jones 1944-48; J. Harper 1949-57; R. Kistler 1958-59; G. Zilliac May 8, 1960, who is the present pastor.

In 1920, an adult Sunday school class organized by the Rev. J. Dornhoeffer was called The Hurless

Memorial Bible Class, in honor of the late Parker Hurless. Of the fourteen charter members only three remain, Fred Stuber, Mrs. W. Richardson and Mrs. Hugh Davis. Other charter members were Mrs. Martha Keim, Mrs. Albert Frey, Mrs. J. Graham, Mrs. Lloyd Hurless, Mrs. C. Blindt, Frank Ellis, Mrs. Fred Stuber, Miss Lynn Smith, Mrs. J. Coppens, D. C. Evans, and Mrs. J. McClain, teacher. Mrs. Nora O'Byrne was teacher for many years.

The Ladies Aid was organized in the early church, and their fund raising projects have aided tremendously in the financial upkeep of the church. They meet monthly in homes.



Setta Frey, 87, One of DePue's Oldest Citizens

Miss Setta Frey, now eighty-seven years old, was one of the first officers. She played an important part in the growth of the society, having served as president over forty years before retiring.

The five Ladies' Aid circles combined membership is seventy. Mrs. Clarence Herzog is president. As far as could be determined, the two remaining charter members are Miss Setta Frey and Mrs. W. Richardson.

The present brick edifice costing \$31,000 was erected in 1925, during the ministry of the Rev. J. Dornhoeffer. Individual contributions, and a substantial one from the New Jersey Zinc Company, swelled the building fund.

The auditorium with balcony is finished in fumed oak and seats three hundred people. The Grattan pipe organ was dedicated in 1926. Mrs. Elva R. Heylmun was organist.

An amplification chimes system was dedicated May 30, 1948. It was a gift from Mrs. Marcella Joosten, Peoria, Illinois, and Mrs. Ireta Bremer, Danville, Illinois, in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Frey, who were faithful active members of the church.

Other families who played an important part in the advancement of the early church are the Smiths (Nora O'Byrne's parents), Frank Ellis, Jacob Lusingers, Banschbachs, and Hurlesses.

Church organizations are the Men's Fellowship organized in 1950 by the Rev. J. Harper. The group helps considerably in the upkeep of the church, the parsonage and grounds.

The Ladies' Guild is the outgrowth of a Sunday school class called Philathea. Mrs. Lloyd Hurless was teacher. In 1923 under the leadership of Mrs. H. Davis, the group became the Ladies' Missionary Society and met weekly. In 1931 it was called the Young Ladies' Guild, and later changed to Ladies' Guild. It meets monthly and its membership is forty-nine. Charter members are still active. Mrs. Ethel Knauf was a former teacher of the class.

The Pilgrim Fellowship is a young people's group and was organized in 1952 by the Rev. John Harper.

There are junior and senior choirs under the

direction of Mrs. Louis Yuvan, with Mrs. Warren Boyer as organist.

The Young Couple's Club, a social group, was organized in 1961, by the Rev. George Zilliac.

Clarence Herzog, Sunday school superintendent, is assisted in the junior department by Mrs. Thomas Glover; in the primary by Mrs. Paul Jensen, and the Cradle Roll with Mrs. Ransom Burden. Mrs. H. G. Hixon, Jessie Lange and Marie Baumer were active Sunday school workers for many years.

A board of trustees, deacons, and deaconesses manages the affairs of the church. The church membership is three hundred. There are seven junior deacons.

In 1961, the members voted to merge with the United Church of Christ. — Nola Glover



Congregational Church 1886



Congregational Church 1961

Pilgrim Park Youth Camp

The summer camping site of the Illinois Congregational Conference of Central Illinois, is a short distance northwest of DePue.

Dr. Glen Lindley, former northern area superintendent, is credited with the establishment of the

camp. In 1946, he arranged for two gifts of land, from Miss Lynn Smith and Mrs. Marie Burnett, for the original 30-acre site. Additional land was acquired in 1952.

Ministers and laymen from the area churches,



Pilgrim Park Located West of DePue on Route 29

under the leadership of Dr. Lindley, erected the present dining hall and cabins. They held the dedication services in 1947. Since then there have been additional buildings, the newest is shower and toilet facilities in the girls' area.

A pool was the project of the Rev. John Harper, camp manager from 1949 through 1957, while he was pastor of the DePue church. He is now minister in Spring Valley Congregational church. The pool is named in his honor.

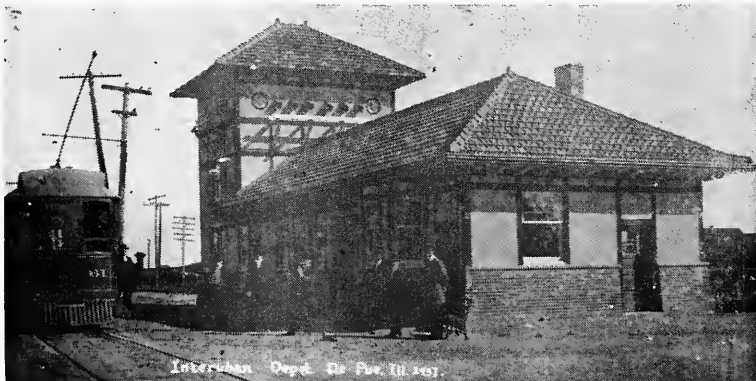
Delegations of youth from area churches and various religious groups are registered from June through September.

The Rev. W. Dupree, Bureau, became camp manager in 1958, and has continued to develop and maintain the park. There are swinging bridges and many beautiful trails in the park.

Outdoor worship is regularly scheduled on Vesper Point, where a huge concrete cross stands amid trees and shrubs.

There are at least 15 cottages, each costing \$400, and bearing the name of the church sponsoring it. There is a huge dining hall, medical center, canteen, an assembly chapel hall and a modern equipped kitchen.

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Interurban Depot Now Dr. J. L. Foresman's Office

DePue Schools

We have depended on records of the late Mrs. 9lbert Frey to bring together the history of early education in DePue. We quote: "The first record of any school in the village goes back to when there were only six families in the settlement. School was held every Saturday afternoon in the Martin Young, Sr., home with his son, Martin, Jr., as the teacher.

The first school house was built in 1858, and furnished with a bell which remained in use until 1928. Mrs. Litchfield was the teacher in this one room, crudely furnished school. The building is still standing at Third and Lake Streets. Remodeled in 1928, it is presently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Searl.

In 1874, a fine new brick building was erected on the corner of Second and Pleasant streets. It had only two rooms and it was soon found necessary to convert the basement into a third class room. Mr. Hill was the principal and directors were William Q. Smith, Martin Banschbach and Ed. Tinley.

In the years 1884-1885, F. Brainerd was a teacher and his old record book revealed some of the students were Elizabeth and Lillie Banschbach,

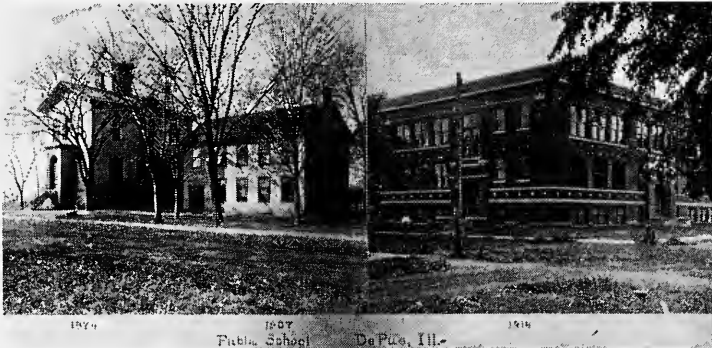
Lisetta Frey, Dolly Luchsinger, Charlie Pope, Philip Link, George Smith, Willie and Freddie Heitz. The first three named still survive.

The first class to graduate from the two year high school in 1895 included only three students: Mamie Hahn, Bertha Baumer, and Lottie Kellogg. W. D. Peck was the teacher.

In 1896, there were seven in the two-year graduating class: Hattie Powers, Lulu Powers, Mary Sullivan, Anna Throne, Hattie Smith Anna Yocks and Setta Seeburger. The last two survive. H. Per-rin was the teacher.

With the establishment of the Zinc Company here about 1904, the population increased rapidly and in 1906, it was necessary to build a temporary frame building. Only five teachers were employed in 1907-08, all DePue residents. They were H. N. Larens, principal, Eleanor Johnson, Laurette Hazlett, Alma Smith, and Florence Hindle.

In 1914 the brick building was razed and the frame building sold to be subsequently remodeled into the present Marliere flats. A large modern brick building was erected that year at a cost of \$50,000.



DePue Schools 1874 - 1907 - 1914

With the development of the Zinc Plant, more families moved to DePue with a resulting increase in school enrollment. Between the years 1900 to 1930, the enrollment increased sevenfold. In 1925, more space was imperative and an addition was built to comprise the elementary grade rooms and the gymnasium-auditorium, at a cost of \$75,000.

Previous to 1917, there were but ten grades in the school. The Class of 1917, numbering seven girls and one boy, was the first to receive diplomas following completion of the four year high school course.

In 1928, the first year book of the school was published. Thomas Blanco, a member of the Junior Class, gave it its name "Recuerdo" a Spanish word meaning remembrance.

Among the superintendents who have served the DePue school are J. T. Finn, S. G. Irwin, C. G. Wilson, O. M. Smith, David Calvert, F. Herrington, J. C. Wiedrich, W. Holloway, Ray Stutz, I. C. Johnson, and the present Thomas Leeson.

In 1954, DePue voters voted "yes" to issue bonds of \$240,000 to make necessary additions and improvements to the school building, which had again become inadequate. The kindergarten and two elementary classes were conducted in build-ings outside the school.

The old "gym" was converted into class rooms, and a new "gym" was built on property north of the school. The new 91 ft. x 130 ft. gymnasium is constructed of concrete block, with a roof of steel trusses. It has an acoustical ceiling and recessed

lighting. It will seat 1200. The 50 ft. x 84 ft. gym floor of hard maple is large enough for two gym classes to be conducted simultaneously.

The faculty for the year 1960-61 is headed by Thomas Leeson, superintendent, and

Mrs. Edith Serkes — kindergarten
 Mrs. Edna Henley — first grade
 Miss Angeline Lusinger — second grade
 Miss Jessie Lange — third grade
 Mrs. Nelle Kelly — fourth grade
 Mrs. Gordon Grahame — fourth grade
 Mrs. Dorothea Yuvan — fifth grade
 Mrs. Bernice Bryant — sixth grade
 Miss Marie Baumer — seventh grade
 Mrs. Blanche Widmar — seventh grade
 Mrs. Amelia Sticken — eighth grade
 Miss Geneva Vickery — eighth grade

High School Faculty

Philip Sawlaw — chemistry, physics, general science, science 8

Donald Talbot — coast, boys P.E., biology.
 Frank Shouler — music
 Robert Lewis — industrial arts, arts 8, grade school coach, driver training
 Meyer Serkes — typing, shorthand, bookkeeping.

John Orolin — mathematics
 Mrs. Marcia Tuttle — home ec., home ec 8, family living
 Miss Elsie Gurnett — U. S. and world history, civics and American Democracy.
 Mrs. Robert Lewis — girls physical education.
 Mrs. Louise Heck — English
 Miss Lupe Ponce — Spanish and speech
 Mrs. Barbara Belski — secretary
 The Board of education is Melvin Hahn, president, William Glover, secretary, Donald Bosnich, J. S. Haynes, Harold Maloney, and Henry Laczewski.

Present enrollment is 306 students in the grades and 127 in the high school.

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Main Street Looking West



Main Street Looking East

History of DePue Organizations

"When Alexis de Tocqueville traveled in the United States during Jackson's administration (1829-1837) studying American habits and customs, he was astounded by the number of civic societies and in his "Democracy in America" he wrote: 'In no country in the world has the principle of association been more successfully used, or applied, to a greater multitude of objects than in America . . . In the United States associations are established to promote the public safety, commerce, industry, morality and religion.

'There is no end which the human will despair of attaining through the combined power of individuals combined in a society.' " — From Beard's Basic History of the United States.

MINERS' UNION

The first large civic group we know of in DePue was a Miners' Union formed about 1889, with a membership of approximately 65.

Many men from DePue, numbering sometimes up to 100, were employed in the coal mine in Marquette, known in early days as Loceyville. Old timers tell of the hardships endured by the miners and their families during a long strike. Fish was the only free food obtainable and the local fishermen often made special hauls in the lake for the benefit of the unemployed miners who eagerly helped with the seining. A not uncommon sight during the strike, was the bobbing pit lamps worn by the miners, which could be seen across the lake as the strikers fished at night.

The DePue men who worked in the Marquette mine walked both ways on the railroad tracks, a distance of two and one-half miles. In the dark winter mornings and early evening darkness the lighted pit caps lighted the long walk via the railroad ties.

DEPUÉ BOAT CLUB

There was a time before the town "boomed" when boating was the main diversion and many boats were anchored along the north shore of the lake. Gradually there was competition and so in a small way, races began. Inboard motors were used then and we are told of a long boat built for racing known as "The Ugly Duckling" which came from Peoria. There would be a "handicap race"

which nevertheless was always won by the "Duckling."

These early races led to the forming from time to time of boat clubs which are dimly remembered. The name of one was the "Nassau." There was a later club that had summer picnics at Riverside Park on the south bank of the Illinois River. Some of the members were: M. T. Hazlett, F. L. Powers, Alfred Lawrence, Robert Hoffman, Louis Feurer, John H. Goering and James Brennan.

Labor Day celebrations featuring boat races started more than forty years ago. This led to the need of an organized group to take charge of the event. American Legion members F. E. Peterson and J. P. Helmer and Commander Sanford Deal met with business men, Dr. Wm. Steele, F. J. Rauh and Matt Fassiso and organized the present DePue Boat Club in 1931.

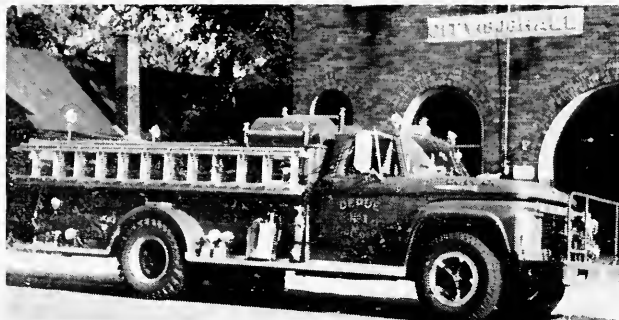
Dr. Wm. Steele was elected Commodore and F. J. Rauh, Secretary. Mr. Rauh, owner of the local telephone exchange, owns a sound system and broadcast all of the events of the day including the races.

With the exception of a few years during the war, the Labor Day celebration has been an annual event, and 1960 was the tenth year that the Divisional Championship races have been held here. This year, the A.P.B.A. National Outboard Championship races will be the feature of the DePue Centennial, Sept. 13-18, replacing the annual Labor Day event.

The Boat Club has an important part in the community. To make it easier for boat owners to launch their craft, the club has built a concrete runway down to the water's edge on Lake Street. There is also a parking area there. They have built a pier which is used by swimmers and fishermen.

The Club has leased a large plot of ground west of town on Route 29, formerly known as Fowler's Grove, to be used for picnics. There are facilities for cooking; and telephone service is provided. A shelter has recently been built by the Club. The park is available for use upon request.

Present officers of the Boat Club are Erven Floyd, Commodore, F. J. Rauh, Secretary, and James Bryant, Treasurer.



DePue Fire Truck Purchased in 1961

DEPUE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

Although the Firemen's Association, with twenty volunteer members is probably the smallest organization in town, it is one of, if not the, most important. It was organized May 4, 1892, by George Beyer, Wm. Giesey, Peter J. Wolter, Simon Huber and Frank Frey.

Recently an up-to-date new fire truck has been purchased at a cost of \$13,000, and the old truck has been rebuilt and modernized. A new building to house equipment will be built on the southwest corner of the Zinc Company property. This will

make fire-fighting equipment available on both sides of the railroad tracks, a safety measure long contemplated by the firemen.

The firemen have only one fund-raising event during the year, the annual dace in January. Tickets are mailed to all property holders. F. J. Rauh is fire chief; Anton Grbac and John Wosik, asst. fire chiefs; John Marple, president; Fred Rauh, Jr., secretary and treasurer. Fred Rauh, Sr., is also president of the Illinois Valley Firemen's Community Association which comprises twenty-eight companies.



M. W. A. Band, DePue — 1911

DEPUE BAND

There is no record of the first band in DePue but a few of the older residents remember it as the Woodman Band directed by F. L. Powers, who gave instructions. The group gave local and out-of-town concerts.

In 1926, the local post of the American Legion decided to organize a drum and bugle corps. Not enough members were interested, so starting a

brass band was discussed, with an invitation extended to anyone who was interested. Meeting with a representative from a Peoria music store, Mr. Vernone Galster, a band was organized with about sixty members, many of whom had never played an instrument. Officers were elected with J. P. Helmer, president; Leo Walker, vice-president; Walther Hasse, secretary-treasurer, Harry Heitz, librarian. Rehearsals were held in Fowler's Hall.

Arrangements were made whereby the members could rent their instruments and take instruction from Mr. Galster.

When the band had progressed sufficiently to give weekly concerts, money was needed to finance the purchase of band arrangements and pay the director. A band tax for this purpose was voted by citizens of the village and the name was changed to DePue Municipal Band. After the death of Mr. Galster, the band was under the leadership of several directors including: Albert Sweet, Leonard Bertrand, and the present director, Vincent Cinotto.

Summer concerts are held in conjunction with ice cream socials sponsored by the various DePue organizations.

Present officers are: Louis Machek, president; Homer Graham, vice-president; Paul Van Cleave, secretary-treasurer; Neber Pizzamiglio, manager; and Primo Chiesi, librarian.

MASONIC LODGE

Lodge No. 951, A.F. & A.M. was organized Oct. 10, 1912, with 26 charter members. D. C. Wray was the first Worshipful Master, and Harvey Seeley, senior warden. The first meetings were held in the old Odd Fellows Hall. When N. L. Bremer, a charter member of the lodge, built his clothing store on the corner of Fourth and Pleasant streets, the upper story was completely furnished and carpeted and used as the Masonic Hall. In 1928, the Masonic Building Association bought a building on East Fourth street, their present headquarters.

Adolph Ristau is Worshipful Master; Harry Marple, Senior Warden, Walther Hasse, Secretary; and Leo Walker, Treasurer.

SLOVENIAN LODGES

The Slovenian Lodges, with a large member-

ship, are affiliated with the National organization. They are organized for both fraternal and insurance purposes. In 1927, they purchased a store building on the corner of Trenton and Willow Streets, from Nick Raptis, who had occupied it as a fruit store. It has been extensively remodeled from time to time, the basement now being equipped with facilities for cooking and serving parties. In 1957 the entire front of the building was rebuilt and modernized.

The first group, known as the Slovenian National Benefit Society, was organized in 1907, with 13 members. The late John Slatner Sr., was the first president. The present officers are John Yuvan Sr., president; John Zugich, secretary; John Blatnick, treasurer. The present membership is 140 adults and about 75 juveniles.

The American Fraternal Union No. 130 started in 1922, with 18 members, the late Igaatz Jontz being the first president. Now there are about 50 adult members and 30 juveniles carrying insurance. John Kopina Sr., is president; Joe Kerzan, secretary; John Blatnick, treasurer.

Slovenian Lodge No. 754, S.N.P.J. was organized in 1938, as an insurance group only, with a membership of about 50. Louis Machek, the first president, still heads the group. Joe Zoran is secretary, and Mrs. Louis Mashek, treasurer.

The Slovenian Women's Union met first on Dec. 19, 1937, and elected Mrs. Mary Stupar president. She still presides at the monthly meetings of the group. Serving with her are Mrs. Anton Jermenc, secretary; Mrs. John Zabavnik, treasurer; Mrs. John Spolar, recording secretary. There are about 39 members.

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Banschbach Home on Left; Rhyne Ellis Home on Right

**AMERICAN LEGION
LLOYD KNOWLTON POST NO. 327**

Of the four service organizations in DePue, the American Legion Lloyd Knowlton Post No. 327 was first, organizing in 1919, with 54 members. The first commander was J. F. Scott. James Harmon is the present commander, Frank Kuhar, vice-commander; Homer Graham, adjutant. Meetings are held the first Monday of the month in the Water Works building.

They assist the DePue Boat Club with the Labor Day celebrations. The American Legion has been awarding medals annually to the three top graduating seniors in the high school for scholarship, athletics, and activities since 1940. The American Legion name plate plaque in the school was started in 1930. Sanford Deal, Legion member, has been in charge of this project for many years.

Timothy E. Sullivan, service officer of the DePue post, has held county and state offices, in both the Legion and 40 and 8 organizations.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The American Legion Auxiliary was organized in 1927, with Mrs. William Knowlton, the first president. The present membership is 46, and the officers: Mrs. Frank Robeck, president; Mrs. Frank Kuhar, first vice-president; Mrs. Joseph Salavanski, second vice-president; Mrs. Timothy Sullivan, secretary; Mrs. William Sullivan, treasurer; and Mrs. Clyde Rhyne, chaplain.

In 1952, Mrs. Timothy Sullivan served as state president of the Legion Auxiliary. Mrs. Leota Dunterman has served as state chairman of Civil Defense.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS — POST 4602

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4602 was organized in 1945, with Forrest Peterson elected

commander. The present membership is 146 and officers are: Ray Spayer, commander; Michael Schroeder, senior vice-commander; Stanley Piascyk, quartermaster; Ray Steim, post advocate. The VFW home, on First St., was built in 1948, and cleared of indebtedness in 1951.

For a number of years, the VFW sponsored a marble tournament every spring. In 1948, a DePue player, Frank Hrovat, Jr., won the state tournament and placed fourth in the National tournament, held in Denver, Colo. The VFW post helps finance the community Halloween and Christmas parties.

V.F.W. AUXILIARY

The V.F.W. Auxiliary started in 1946, with Mrs. Frank Baum, as first president. Membership now is 55 and the officers are as follows: Mrs. Wm. Miller, president; Mrs. Vincent Lawniczak, senior vice-president; Mrs. William Laicoff, junior vice-president; Mrs. Frank Baum, secretary; Mrs. Sylvester Marciniak, treasurer; Mrs. Marion Kopytkiewicz, chaplain. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month. They sponsor the Girl Scouts.

PARENT-TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The first meeting of the Parent-Teacher Association was held on March 4, 1927, with Supt. J. C. Wiedrich presiding. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wiedrich were enthusiastic leaders in getting the organization started. Attendance at the first meeting was 85, in April, 1961 it was over 100.

Officers for 1961-62 are Vincent Lawniczak, president (serving his second term) Mrs. Frank Kuhar, vice-president; Mrs. Daniel Kopina, secretary; Edward Peterson, treasurer; Thomas Leeson, superintendent. Credit for the membership of 402 is given to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Rosinski, who

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City Hall Used Until 1908

have been membership chairmen for two years. J. S. Haynes, legislative chairman for some time, keeps the organization posted on current legislation.

The well-kept history of the organization in the form of minutes and programs was made available for research. Interesting is a list of all of the officers since the first meeting. Mrs. Charles Bates was the first president, F. W. Krueger, vice-president, Mrs. D. N. Tinker, secretary; John A. Gurnett, treasurer.

Mrs. J. W. Heylmun, third president of the DePue P-TA and now living in Oak Park, went on to become vice-president of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. While living in DePue she started a Mother-Singers group and has directed the Mother-Singers groups at both State and National Conventions.

Going through the minutes and historian's booklets we are reminded of the many projects the P-TA has sponsored through the years. The latest, approved in October, 1960, was granting a scholarship to L-PO Junior College to a high school senior. Don Latchford was chosen for this honor and the presentation was made at the Class Night program May 12, 1961, by Mr. Lawniczak. At the October 1960 meeting it was voted to sponsor Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Explorer Scouts. Other note-worthy projects of the past were: Infant Welfare Station, Summer Roundup, Open House for high school students and the Thrift Shop, (the latter under the direction of Mrs. Hixon), the Mother-Singers, Room Mothers, and Homemaking Group. The annual Halloween party has always been sponsored by the P-TA.

DEPUE BOOSTER CLUB

Children in our great United States are, taken as a whole, probably the most privileged in the world. DePue children were especially favored when in 1950, the DePue Booster Club was organized, their main purpose being to plan recreation for children of the community. The hearty support of the townspeople is evidenced in the membership of 766, the largest organization ever formed in DePue. Ray Vega was membership chairman the past year, and Harold Banich will have the job this year. Officers for 1961-62 are: Manuel Salcedo,

president; Robert Piletic, first vice-president; Donald Bosnich, second vice-president; Mrs. George Meagher, treasurer; Miss Lois Croissant, secretary; directors: Mrs. Genevieve Croissant, Joseph Grilc, Mrs. Edward Peterson, Harold Banich, Ray Vega, and Miss Betty Suarez.

The first meeting was held March 7, 1950, with Edward Kmiecik as the first president. Others who were instrumental in getting the club started were Victor Ruggerio, first vice-president, Edward Jermenc, second vice-president, Joe Zoran, secretary and treasurer; and the late John Dobrich and Ray Staskiewicz, directors.

The two main projects of the Booster Club are the annual Easter Egg Hunt and the summer swimming program. Until 1959, when the women were invited to join, the men colored the 500 eggs and numbered them to correspond with numbered prizes in store windows.

During several of the warmest weeks in July, the Booster Club furnishes transportation for school children to go the Peru swimming pool. The Booster Club also helps in financing the Halloween party, the children's Christmas party, the annual Athletic banquet. Once a year they take the boys' basketball teams to Chicago and also give the cheerleaders an outing. They have also contributed to the expense of keeping the Recreation Center operating. The club meets in the Recreation Center.

BOY SCOUTS

Although there are no records of the earliest group of Boy Scouts, through the cooperation of Mrs. Morse Bryant, whose husband belonged to the first known group of Boy Scouts, we learn that a troop was formed on April 4, 1912, under the direction of Rev. F. H. Anderson.

This was a lone Scout troop, leaning more to military training, and it continued until Jan. 1, 1914. On March 1, 1916, another group was started under the direction of Rev. F. C. Carpenter, with Mr. Tusick as Scout Master.

In 1924, Ernest Jordan was Scoutmaster of a troop, with James Meagher, D. N. Tinker, Frank Cantwell, Louis Feurer and James Brennan on the troop committee.



DePue Boy Scouts

The National Boy Scouts were chartered by Congress, June 15, 1916 and new charters are sent to each troop annually. The first charter on hand for the DePue group, dated April 30, 1934, lists Frederick Voorhaar as Scoutmaster. The 1935 charter lists John McKinstry as Scoutmaster with William Tyrer, assistant. McKinstry served as Scoutmaster until he left for army service in 1941.

A. L. Theivagt, took over in 1943. In 1944, Herbert Hensey was assistant for Theivagt. Frank Haywood became Scoutmaster in 1945, Raymond Stutz in 1946-1948. In 1949-1950, Gilbert Johnson, 1951 to 1955, Robert Hensey. John Herzog, adviser to the Explorers, became Scoutmaster in 1955, and served until 1960.

Last July, a group of Explorers, with Scoutmaster Herzog and his father, C. W. Herzog, attended the National Jamboree in Colorado Springs.

For four years, beginning in 1956, the Scouts sponsored the Inboard Boat races, held in June. Included in the event were the first drag boat races held in the middle west.

Clarence R. Herzog became the only Eagle Scout to earn that award in DePue, in May, 1953. About that time his father, C. W. Herzog, received his Silver Beaver award.

Present leaders are as follows: H. John Meyer, Scoutmaster, with Louis Muzzarelli, Dr. James Foresman, John Thomas, Pete Dobrich and Everett Simkins serving on the troop committee. John Bubon has been appointed Institutional representative by the P-TA. Previous to 1960, the Scouts were sponsored for the Congregational Church. Since then the charter is issued to the P-TA.

John Orlon is advisor of the Explorer Post. There are 28 Explorers in Post 57, a gain of 100 percent in membership since the fall of 1960.

Robert Piletic, Cub Master, has also been appointed Neighborhood Commissioner, and Henry Benkse, chairman of Cub Committee.

GIRL SCOUTS

There is no record of early Girl Scouts in DePue, but we know that Mrs. William Kelsey, whose husband was Plant Superintendent at that time, organized a group of Camp Fire girls. From 1923 to 1927, Mrs. T. E. Sullivan led a group of Girl Scouts, assisted by Mrs. Andrew Beckley, Miss Ethel Johnson, and Miss Phyllis Croisant (now Mrs. Ernest Jordan).

Recorded in the fiftieth anniversary program of the Congregational church is the changing of a group of Camp Fire girls organized in 1931, under direction of Rev. C. B. Gould to a Girl Scout troop. Miss Marie Baumer was captain, with Mrs. Bernice Bryant, Mrs. Elsie Brand and Miss Mazine Wagner, lieutenants. Mrs. Edward Powers was chairman of the committee appointed by the church. Later Miss Pearl Glover with Mrs. Bryant assisting, carried on the work.

There is now an active group of Girl Scouts, affiliated with the Illinois Valley council. The groups are sponsored by the V.F.W. Auxiliary and directed by an appointed committee; Mrs. Edward Widmar,

Mrs. Al Mentgen, Mrs. Donald Bosnich, Genevieve Kopina, and Mrs. Nora Bryant.

Leaders of the Intermediate group are Miss Betty Suarez and Miss Darlene Risberg. Brownie leaders are: Mrs. John Widmar, Mrs. Jos. Haywood, Mrs. Vincent Lawniczak, Mrs. Robert Harrison and Mrs. William Laicoff.

DEPUÉ BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The DePue Businessmen's Association was organized April 26, 1950, with Louis Muzzarelli, president; Louis Machek, secretary-treasurer, and John Rostagno, Hyman Dobovski and Victory Ruggerio, directors. Officers for 1961-62 are F. J. Rauh, president; Louis Machek, vice-president; C. W. Herzog, treasurer; directors for one, two and three years: John Kopina, James Bryant and Henry Benkse, respectively.

The association cooperates in financing the children's parties for Halloween and Christmas and takes charge of all business affairs in the village.

UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA LOCAL 5212

The United Steel Workers of America, Local No. 5212 organized in 1955, with George Barnes, Jr., as first president. In January, 1960, the organization purchased a building on East St., remodeled it extensively and redecorated the interior. The present membership is 299. Officers are John Slatner, president; Charles Athey, Jr., vice-president; Jos Lopez, recording secretary; Ray Spayer, financial secretary, John Lavrin, Jr., treasurer.

AMERICAN RED CROSS

The local branch of the American Red Cross was reorganized in 1957 with Mrs. Paul Jensen, chairman. The present officers are: Mrs. Frank Robeck, chairman; Rev. George Zilliac, vice-president; Mrs. Harold Moloney, secretary; John McKinstry, treasurer; A. A. George, service officer, Mrs. Jaul Jensen, director, Mrs. Ed Powers, publicity.

Mrs. John Restetich, Jr., was fund drive chairman for 1961. In the fall of 1960, a home nursing course was taught by Mrs. George Meagher and Mrs. Walter Walk, registered nurses, who had been trained for the course at Red Cross headquarters in Princeton. Sixty-seven women received diplomas for completion of the course.

Aside from the Miners' Union, the first organizations in DePue were probably the fraternal societies which offered both sociability and insurance. The I.O.O.F. took out a charter in 1880 with 37 members. The Modern Woodmen of America started in 1890 with 6 members. Both groups were active for many years, but at present there is but a small beneficial membership in both organizations. Likewise, the Mystic Workers, was organized in 1903, with 24 members. A number of members maintain life insurance policies with the company, now known as the Fidelity Life Association. Until her death, Miss Mary Sullivan was secretary.

Two other early fraternal groups, the Fraternal Toilers, organized in 1901, with 80 members, and the Lodge Constance Rebekah, organized in 1904, are no longer active, nor is the Lady Maccabees Lodge, another fraternal organization. Starting in

1905, with 29 members, the Royal Neighbors Lodge was active for many years. Now there are only beneficial numbers with Mrs. John Blum collecting the dues and looking after their interests. Former members of the Modern Woodmen and the Royal Neighbors remember the fine drill teams which these groups had.

Mrs. O. M. Hagen was director of the ladies' group. She was a snappy, capable leader of the drill team which was much in demand for affairs in surrounding towns where they put on their drill work. The Woodmen also had a drill corps, band members participating. The band director, F. L. Powers, also led the drill team.

The Sefino Club was another which had no officers, only four members and no set meeting date, but they met for many years with Mrs. J. P. Coughlin, an invalid confined to a wheel chair.

Most of the DePue organizations contribute toward maintaining the Recreation Center. The New Jersey Zinc Company provides the building, equipment and heat. The Center is closed during the summer. During the 1960-61 school term it was open three evenings a week, with mothers of the school children taking turns supervising. Affairs of the Center are in charge of a Youth Commission composed of Vere Rhyne, chairman, Mrs. Grace Ellis and Miss Lupe Ponce, members.

* * *

To the officers and others who so kindly cooperated in gathering information for this chapter, I want to express my appreciation.

— Mrs. Florence Hindle Powers (Mrs. Edward)

The DePue State Bank

A charter was granted to the DePue State Bank on Dec. 27, 1904. The state auditor of public accounts had issued a permit for the opening of a bank in DePue on June 25, 1904.

The first directors were: Henry Ream, Charles Brunner, Frank Frey, Paul Jensen, Ernst Gunther, Phillip Link. The first cashier was Harry F. Ream. The officers were Henry Ream, president; Frank

Frey, vice-president; Harry R. Ream, cashier.

The bank opened for business in a small building which stood on the site of the present Recreation Center. (The building is still in use as a storage shed on the Makse property.). About 1906 John Frey put up the present bank building. In 1848 the bank bought it from Miss Setta Frey.



DePue State Bank on Right; Frey Store on Left — 1906

Present officers are: Clarence Herzog, president; and president of the board of directors; Mrs. Alma McLaughlin, vice-president and cashier; Miss Mary Miscevic, assistant cashier. Serving with Herzog on the board of directors are Ben Dunterman and Mrs. McLaughlin.

Herzog recalls hearing his father tell of the arrival of the safe which is still in use. It was shipped in by rail and since it weighed nine and one-half tons, getting it moved to the building posed a problem. His father brought his team and farm wagon into town and with their assistance it was rolled the block or so from the railroad tracks.

Mr. Ream was cashier for many years. Mr. Herzog's employment at the bank started July 1, 1922 and when Mr. Ream passed away he became president.

Mrs. McLaughlin worked in the bank during vacations beginning with her freshman year and continued until she graduated. As there was no opening in the DePue bank at that time she worked in a Princeton bank for three years. In 1928, Mr. Edward Brooks, who had been employed in the

bank for many years, passed away and she returned to take his place.

Others who have worked in the bank were Mrs. Grace McClure, who started in 1921 and was cashier when she left in 1930; Miss Marcella Frey, now Mrs. E. J. Joosten of Peoria, and Henry Toeellen of Peru.

The bank is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

DePue Public Library

In 1937, a library opened in the Water Works building under the N.Y.A. with Mrs. Eli Edwards and Edward Hypki as librarians. In 1938, Mrs. Louise Helmer, (now Mrs. R. Eckard) was librarian under W.P.A. supervision. In 1941, Mrs. Allie Dilts, Spring Valley, was assistant librarian. In 1943, Mrs. Eckard resigned and Mrs. Dilts became librarian. The village levied a tax to maintain the library. In 1947 it was moved to the present building which is owned by the New Jersey Zinc Company and

donated to the library board which is composed of the following:

In 1961 there were 590 borrowers, a total of 6280 books and a yearly circulation of 10,386 volumes.

President — Mrs. Edward Widmar; secretary — Mrs. Leo Utterback; treasurer — Al George; members: Mrs. Harold Maloney, Daniel Kopina and Warren Boyer.

DePue Telephone Company

Local business men and farmers organized the Bureau County Mutual Telephone Company in 1907. Night service began in 1908 with the late Elvene Monnett as operator. In 1910 it was incorporated under its present name with twenty-three stockholders. Magneto service was replaced by battery installation in 1926. F. Rauh Sr., and C. Gieler acquired most of the stock. In 1935 Mr. Rauh bought all interests.

There are 700 subscribers. A modern board was

installed in 1950. The exchange also operates the fire alarms.

Rauh is assisted by his children, Fred Rauh, Jr., and Mrs. Marquerite Toovey, who is secretary. Operators are: Mrs. J. Kopykiewicz, Mrs. M. Rauh, Mrs. C. Rhyne, Miss Helen Lepianka, Mrs. J. Savoure, Mrs. J. Bernatovich and Mrs. Fred Rauh, Jr. Mr. Rauh is DePue's oldest businessman. Mrs. F. Rauh, Sr., and daughter, Mrs. Adeline Conant, are directors.

DePue Post Office

The DePue Post Office was first established as Selby Station on March 3, 1854. The name was changed to Depue Post Office on May 6, 1867, and the spelling was changed to DePue on July 14, 1894.

Postmasters and dates of appointments are as follows:

Wallace W. Barrett - March 31, 1854
Hiram White - January 8, 1855
Edward Tinley - July 25, 1856
Jacob Bernhard - September 13, 1861
Edward Tinley - November 20, 1865
Edward Tinley - March 21, 1881

Frank Frey - January 18, 1890.

Mary E. Smith - July 14, 1894

John Feltes - September 7, 1895

Frank Frey - April 1, 1899.

Myrtle Smith - August 1, 1913

Forrest Peterson - December 15, 1927

Mrs. Eugenia Spaulding - February 1, 1936

Joseph Zoran - May 31, 1951

Stanley Piascyk - August 15, 1952

U.S. Postal Department, Courtesy of Stanley Piascyk, DePue Postmaster.

DePue's Lake Press

John R. Herzog opened a shop in his home in 1944. Soon his business expanded and he moved into the Isaacson building. He later purchased and remodeled the Rex Theater and tavern building at 119-121 East Fourth Street and set up shop. He is

publishing a newspaper devoted exclusively to news of Citizen Band Radio Clubs in the U.S.A., called "C-B Nationwide News." The inaugural May edition was mailed to 6,300 Citizen Banders.

The Illinois Power Company

Homemakers today take for granted the clean, efficient power of electricity which brings, at the flip of a switch, — light, power, refrigeration, heat for a variety of purposes — and a relief from drudgery undreamed of at the beginning of the century.

Many older DePue residents remember the kerosene lamps and the daily chore of washing sooty chimneys. Far more laborious was the weekly washday with clothes either washed by hand or in a hand-operated machine.

The water had to be carried from an outside well except for the few homes having a cistern pump in the kitchen. Water was heated in a boiler on the cook stove or range; so were the flat irons used for ironing.

DePue made a step forward when, according to the village ordinance books, a franchise was granted in 1905 to operate an electric light system.

However, it was not until 1912 that there is a reference to money being appropriated, "\$2200 for construction of an electric light system." Lines were put up in the village and connected with Spring Valley by the Brown Bros. Construction company, the first power company collecting for electricity in DePue. William Perkins, Spring Valley, now retired, was foreman of construction in this area for many years.

The Mineral Point Zinc company maintained its own power plant. It furnished power for lighting the Plant-owned homes in the Park and on Tower Hill as well as for use in the Plant.

The power company, still operated by Brown Bros., became known as the Spring Valley Utilities. They sold out about 1923 to the present corporation,

known then as the Illinois Power and Light company, and later the Illinois-Iowa Power company. Leslie R. Harrison of Spring Valley, who retired in 1959, was area manager for many years.

Mrs. Ben Harrison, whose husband was DePue lineman and trouble shooter until 1949, remembers that when she came to DePue in 1923 Ben collected in the office on "pay day" until 8 p.m.

Mrs. Leo Utterbach, who was secretary in the local office from 1939 until her retirement in May, 1961, recalls that when she came to DePue, a monthly bill of seventy-five cents was not unusual for homes which now pay \$10 to \$12. This increase in consumption of power is nation-wide due to the manufacture of a large variety of electrical appliances.

Miss Dorris Mathews, a native of Mineral, was in the office from 1930 until 1939.

Others who have been employed in the electric office are Miss Eleanor Richardson (Mrs. Clarence Herzog) in the summer of 1927; Miss Goldie Glass (Mrs. James Savoure) from 1927 until 1930; Miss Roberta Moran (Mrs. Gene Engler) for six months in 1939.

Jim Stein, the present lineman and trouble shooter for DePue and towns west of here, moved to DePue with his family in 1949 following Ben Harrison's retirement.

Under direction of the DePue Centennial Committee, volunteer workers made a survey of the town for the Power company in June, 1961 to find out how many residents would be interested in having natural gas service. At this date (August 1, 1961) the result of the survey is not known.

— Florence H. Powers

DePue's Service Records

THE CIVIL WAR

Due to the fact that 1961, DePue's centennial year, is also the Civil War centennial year, it is proper to recount, not only DePue's service record but that of the State of Illinois, too.

From the book "The Making of Illinois" by I. F. Mather, AM, we quote:

"Volumes have been written upon the part Illinois played in the Civil War. Our state furnished over 260,000 men, placing it fourth. New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio furnished more troops — but in 1861 each of these states had more inhabitants, so in proportion to her population then, Illinois furnished a greater number of soldiers than any other state except Kansas.

A record of Illinois troops in the war would recount weary marches and fierce battles in Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia and other southern states.

Illinois troops withstood the shock of the rebels hosts upon the bloody fields of Shiloh, they fought

at Perryville and Corinth; they contended at Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain.

They waited weary weeks in the trenches around Vicksburg for surrender; they fired the first shot at Gettysburg; they marched with Sherman from "Atlanta to the Sea" and took their place in the last grand review.

DePue's Civil War Veterans

As correctly ascertained as possible, we find at least five men who enlisted from DePue to fight in the Civil War, namely Jacob Frey, a drummer boy, Charles Frey, John Frey, Jacob Luchsinger and George Hosier.

Mr. Luchinger (Lusinger) was Bureau County's last surviving Civil War veteran. He died in 1941 at the age of 97, lacking only 7 days of being 98. He was a former Senior Vice-Commander of the Illinois Department G.A.R. He was a member of Ferris Post No. 309, Princeton Civil War Veterans. While he was still able to travel, he attended the National and State G.A.R. meetings regularly. He



Jacob Lusinger, the last Bureau County Civil War Veteran. Photo taken in Nelbourne, Florida in 1934 - age 90 years.

had served with the 79th Volunteers, and when the war ended he was in Chattanooga, Tenn.

His brother Andrew, was also a Civil War

veteran but did not live in DePue at the time of enlistment. Andrew was with Sherman in his march to the sea.

Benjamin Franklin Ellis, another Civil War veteran, came to DePue after the war, and resided here the remainder of his life. He spent some time in the Andersonville prison.

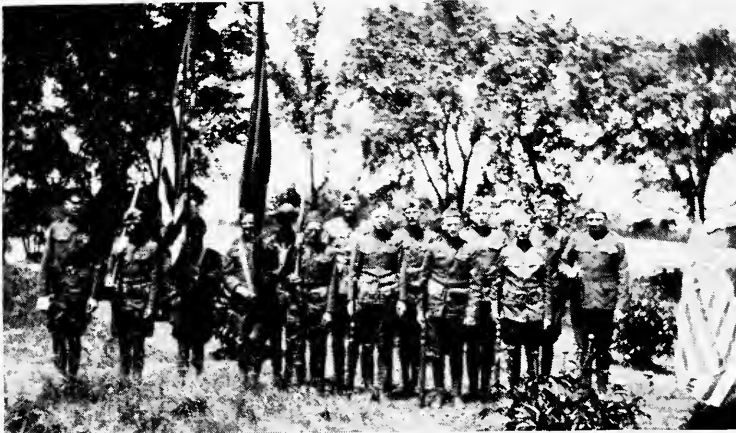
Other Civil War veterans who lived in DePue include Daniel, Joshua, Jacob and Mose Fox; A. N. Searl, David Marple, Robert Paden, Mike White, Bart Litchfield, Lucas Lusom, Jacob Strickmaker, John Eggerts, John Helmer, Daniel Tuttle, William Charles, Solomon Corl, John Seeburger, Charles Walker and Jacob Bernhardt.

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

There is no record of any men having left DePue for duty in this war in 1898. However several Spanish American war veterans lived in DePue for many years: George Gleason, Charles Mavity and Lewis Webster.

WORLD WAR I - 1917

In this war our soldiers fought in Europe. DePue was proud of her quota, 116 in all. Only one died in service, Lloyd Knowlton in whose honor DePue's American Legion Post No. 327 is named. Thirteen of the men were recruited to the Polish Army and nineteen to the Serbian Army. DePue's citizens purchased a fair share of Liberty Bonds and War Stamps.



Taken Memorial Day, 1929, Greenwood Cemetery, Bureau, Illinois. E. M. Turner, Squad Leader; Charles Tunis, Color Guard; Morgan Savage, Color Guard; L. L. Pearson, William DeSpain, A. F. Kelly, J. F. Scott, R. E. Turner, F. E. Peterson, J. P. Helmer, L. J. Walker, T. E. Sullivan, H. Heitz, and J. McKinstrey, Boy Scout bugler.

WORLD WAR II - 1941-1945

This war, much larger, and spread over many continents and oceans, required more men. Again, as nearly as possible to determine, there were approximately 470 to 480 men and women from DePue in the service.

There are 14 Gold Star names in the record of those who "gave the last full measure of devotion":

Pvt. Orentino Alvarez; PFC. Theodore Biagioni; Sgt. Wayne G. Buffinger; PFC. Joseph Espinosa; PFC. Herbert Hensley; Corp. Edward S. Krywicki; S/Sgt. Ivan E. May; PFC. George C. Meadowcroft; 1st Lt. Robert P. Moran; T/15 Lester Pinter; 1st Lt.

Carl Reistad; Pvt. Rudolph Slatner; S/Sgt. Fred Yuvan; PFC Henry F. Yuvan.

Some of these boys are buried on foreign soil.

There were nine women from DePue in the service during World War II:

PFC. Gretchen Williams - WACS; Dolores Gomez, Ph.M. 1/C - WAVES; T/3 Loretta Banasiewicz - WACS; P.M. 1/C Joan Quinn - Navy; Lt. Comdr. Madge M. Ellis - Navy; 1st Lt. Peggy Marguerite O'Bryne - WACS; 1st Lt. Lu Gomez - Army Nurse; PFC Gayle Smart - Army; 2nd Lt. Artie Mae Kelley - Army.

Did You Know?



G. M. Bryant (center), son of G. A.; grandson Morse, and great grandson, George

The fifth generation of Bryants is starting in business in DePue! G. M. Bryant came to DePue in 1902 and operated a grain elevator and coal and lumber business. His sons, George A. and Walter, operated the hardware store and later sold cars. Morse, son of G. A. Bryant, has continued in the lumber and coal business aided by his son, James, who now has a TV sales and repair shop. James' son, twelve-year-old James, is beginning to help his dad.

The late Frank Cantwell joined the DePue Fire Department in 1921, and served as chief from 1923 to 1955 when he resigned.

The late Charlie Pope was Village Clerk from 1907 to 1932 when he retired.

George M. Bryant was secretary-treasurer of the DePue school board for thirty-five years.



Fred Rauh Sr., has been affiliated with the DePue Fire Department holding various offices since 1912. He is the present fire chief.

Charles Savage raised many peacocks on the north edge of town and children gathered the pretty feathers.

In 1903 Peter and John Wolters, carpenters, were paid twenty-five cents an hour. They built many beautiful big homes in DePue and surrounding towns. Mrs. Adeline Janz, Peru, daughter of Peter Wolters, has many beautiful pictures of homes her father built.

Oliver Keim operated a saw mill on his north property.

* * *

The Andrew Szygenda family built and operated a bakery shop in 1916-17-18 (?) on what is now Blum's Clothing Store.

* * *

The Jacob Feurer family owned and operated a big bakery for many years in a building, now torn down, east of the Dwyer property. They sold their goods in neighboring towns.

* * *

Harry Jordine operated an open air theater in DePue in the 1920's.

* * *

Frank Powers' orchestra was playing for dances in 1910.

* * *

The offices of Dr. J. Forseman was the old Interurban depot.

* * *

The population of DePue in 1900 was 500; in 1950 it was 2163, and in 1961 is 1900.

* * *

In 1932-33 DePue had a sanded beach which was enjoyed by hundreds of people in DePue and from neighboring towns.

* * *

In 1915 Ray Gore's bid of \$2.92 a ton for coal was accepted by the village board.

* * *

Ray Gore was "tea man" for the Royal Tea Company in DePue and neighboring towns for many years.

* * *

The late Charles Isaacson was in business in DePue for twenty-five years. He operated a confectionery or ice cream parlor, and later the DePue Bottling Works and sold "pop" in this area.

* * *

In 1924 Mrs. Loretta Seavey, Plant Nurse, asked

for and was given permission to use the council rooms for a temporary hospital room to remove tonsils from ten or twelve school children.

* * *

In 1946 DePue's beloved policeman, Herman Bansch, died. He was on the police force for twenty-five years.

* * *

Harry Ream was village treasurer for over thirty years.

* * *

August Bansch was village hall janitor for many years.

* * *

There was an encampment of five hundred Blackfoot Indians at Lake DePue and along the north bluff. What is known as Mecum Hill road today was an Indian path from the bluff to the lake, and many Indian relics have been found in this area.

* * *

Mrs. Julie Ann Trock, Mrs. Frank Ciboroski and Mrs. Maggie Comiskey Bansch were important women in the village since they were midwives and brought many of the second and third generations into this world.

* * *

It is reported that the largest family to ever live in DePue was the Anthony — Julie Ann Trock family who came to DePue in 1908. They had 19 children; five are living. The late Mrs. Minnie Staskiewicz was one of the children.

* * *

Mrs. Joseph Croissant, a long-time resident, now a patient in a Peoria hospital, is over 100 years old; Elizabeth Banschbach, an invalid at home is 92, and her sister, Lilly Belle, is 91; Ernest Hasse, former mayor is 90. There are many residents past 80 years old, to include Sette Frey 87, Lloyd Hurlless 86, Dan Hall 86, and Stanley Spayer 85.

Acknowledgements

Preparing the history booklet required extensive research. Some records were incomplete, and in a number of cases where there were no records, the descendants were unable to furnish facts.

Even so, much interesting material was gleaned from various sources that have been acknowledged in the different chapters. In addition, the village administrative records from 1866 to 1961 were used, old property deeds, church and cemetery records verified names and dates, and old settlers gave first hand information.

Condensing the material into a small booklet posed a real problem. Chapters had to be re-written, shortened, and many interesting facts had to be omitted. It is understandable that what might seem inconsequential to some readers will be of genuine interest and importance to others. May the booklet prove to be an interesting cherished keepsake.

The committee feels privileged to have had the interesting experience of compiling the history. We want to thank everyone who helped in any way with the booklet.

Mrs. Alice Deal, Mrs. Ed Powers, Mrs. Kathryn Godfrey, Miss Nola Glover, Mrs. Bernice Bryant, Mrs. Anna Lawless, Mr. Ira Searl, and John Ellis, writers; Mrs. Grace McClure and Mrs. Della Walsh, typists; Albert Sanger in charge of pictures; Mrs. Blanche Widmar and Miss Marie Baumer, proof readers; and cover sketching by Edward Grile.

Congratulations

This history book, which you have just read, was compiled by the people listed on the preceding page under Acknowledgements. They have put a great amount of time and effort into the writing of this history. Page upon page of information was gathered by these people. This information had to be broken down into various categories and some information had to be omitted because of the length.

I had asked Mrs. Alice Deal to assume the responsibility of gathering information and compiling this information into a history of the Village of DePue. Without hesitation, she readily accepted this position as head of our History Committee. She selected the other members of this committee and they plunged into this huge task.

After reading this history, I know that she and her committee did a tremendous job. They should be congratulated by everyone on the outstanding way in which the history of DePue was written.

There are not enough words to express my gratitude to Mrs. Deal and her committee. On behalf of the Centennial Committee — Thank you.

Gerald R. Toovey
General Chairman
DePue Centennial Committee

